

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Overland Trade Report.

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### BIRTH.

At No. 12, Bellios Terrace, Hongkong, on the 27th February, the wife of ISIDORE XAVIER, of a son.

### DEATH.

At 6, Chaoufoong Road, Shanghai, on the 27th February, 1898, LIZZIE THOMPSON SMITH, the dearly beloved wife of JAMES FERRIER, China Merchants' S. N. Co.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 28th January arrived, per M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on the 27th February (30 days); and the English mail of the 4th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Thames*, on the 3rd March (27 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Yen pieces that have been "chopped" in China are discounted on exchange in Japan by 25 per cent.

The guarantee for the new Chinese loan includes the unpledged portion of the Customs and a part of the Likin.

A Court Martial has been held on the grounding of the *Victorious*. The Captain and Staff Commander were severely reprimanded.

Six officers attached to the staff of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung arrived at Nagasaki on the 22nd February, to commence a tour of inspection in Japan.

M. Hanotaux has informed Sir Edmund Monson that France has not the slightest intention of imitating Germany by seizing a Naval base in China.

Mr. Curzon read a note from Count Muravieff in the House of Commons, declaring that any port Russia occupies in China will be open to ships for the commerce of the world.

The proposed Chinese national domestic loan is, the *N. C. Daily News* says, an utter failure. All the Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamèn together only subscribed for Tls. 20,000.

Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements, is expected to go on leave to England about the end of March. Mr. J. A. Swettenham, Colonial Secretary, who returns from leave about the middle of March, will be appointed Acting Governor.

Famine prevails in some of the provinces of Annam. The Government has organised a system of rice distribution, and relief works have also been undertaken, the wages being paid half in money and half in rice. The *Avenir du Tonkin* says the famine may now be considered as well in hand.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) understand that an Imperial decree was issued last week authorising the construction of a railway from Tientsin to Chinkiang by way of Shantung; and that on this the German Minister, Baron Heyking, protested on the ground that Germany must have the first right to construct railways in any part of the province of Shantung.

The new Governor of the German Settlement at Kiaochou Bay is Captain Truppel, the Residence being in the *yamen* at Chingtao. We (*N. C. Daily News*) learn that Mr. Melton Prior, the artist, was most cordially received by the German authorities at Chingtao, which is forty miles from the city of Kiaochou, and was kindly invited to be the guest of the Governor.

The Tsungli Yamèn acting on advice from Minister Wu to the United States, has requested the Viceroy of this province to give orders to his subordinates to admonish all tea planters and merchants to be careful in the quality of teas exported, and not to mix leaves of inferior quality with good teas, to the detriment of the trade. Viceroy Liu has accordingly instructed the Shanghai Magistrate to that effect.—*Mercury*.

It is stated in native official circles at Shanghai that, upon the recommendation of Ts'ai Taotai, the Viceroy Liu of Nanking has appointed Mr. W. V. Drummond Chief Legal Adviser to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at that port, and that Mr. Drummond's clerk, Lo Chen-yi, has been appointed Assistant Legal Adviser. The honorary title given by Viceroy Liu to Mr. Drummond is "an official of the 3rd brevet button," light blue.—*N. C. Daily News*.

On the morning of the 19th February the Manila and Dagupan railway was found to be damaged between the stations of Calumpit and Apalit and an examination showed that the damage had been caused intentionally. A party of Cazadores was sent out to search the neighbourhood and they found in hiding amongst the reeds a band of robbers, upon whom they opened fire, killing five and taking one prisoner. The damage was repaired the same day and traffic resumed in the evening.

Mr. Archibald J. Little's launch *Leechuen*, the pioneer steamer for the Chungking trade, started from Ichang at noon on the 15th February, with one small junk and also a gunboat sent by the Chinese for protection, in tow. Her progress through the rapids up to her future port will be watched with great anxiety and interest by all who wish to see the resources of Western China opened out to the world.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Sir Howard Vincent has addressed a letter to the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce on the British position in the Mediterranean and China, in which he expresses his satisfaction that Lord Salisbury and Her Majesty's Government are taking energetic steps, in friendly alliance with China, to develop mutual trade between British Burma and "the rich, adjacent, and thickly populated valley of the Yunnan!" It is to be hoped Lord Salisbury and Her Majesty's Government know more about Yunnan than Sir Howard Vincent does.

Another important arm is to be added to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. We are to have a corps of marine volunteers for the defence of the harbour and water approaches of the Foreign Settlements, with launches armed with gatling guns. A meeting was held on the 23rd February at the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association with the object of forming the new branch of the S.V.C. and was largely attended. Major Holliday was present and addressed the meeting. No less than 42 names were at once sent in for membership and a committee was nominated to carry the project through its initial stages.—*China Gazette*.

On account of the Emperor's recent decree founding special examinations, great desire is now felt by scholars in Peking and in Tientsin to acquire a knowledge of western science, history, and law. Translations made in recent years by foreign scholars on economical and historical subjects, such as those published by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge in China, are now eagerly read in every part of China; a new era has dawned and the star of hope is now seen shining on the Chinese horizon. Knowledge is power, and China by acquiring knowledge will through that diplomatic aptitude in which she has never been wanting at the same time also increase her power.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It is reported in well-informed native circles that the people inhabiting the Yangtze Valley have recently begun to quietly arm themselves and that they are being gradually supplied with firearms through various influential quarters. Something is evidently expected to happen in the near future and the leaders of public opinion amongst the masses are apparently trying to prepare the minds of the latter for some crisis. There is now, in consequence, a certain restlessness of spirit and a longing for "something to happen" observable amongst the people of the Yangtze Valley, such as has not shown itself since the time when first it became known that the Taiping rebels were nearing Kiangsu province, some forty years ago. Apropos of the above it is interesting to learn that the members of a certain powerful secret society whose headquarters are not a hundred miles from Shanghai, have been observed to be unusually active of late.—*N. C. Daily News*.



### DECLARATIONS OF THE FOREIGN POWERS AND BRITISH INTERESTS IN CHINA.

The assurances received, first from Count MURAVIEFF to the effect that any port in China occupied by Russia will be open to the commerce of the world, and secondly from M. HANOTAUX that France has no intention of imitating Germany by seizing a naval base in China, are satisfactory so far as they go. They would be most completely so if other circumstances were corroborative of the pacific intentions professed. Of course, as far as France is concerned, a great deal must be allowed for the colonising zeal of many of her officers and agents, who, in their desire to do something to distinguish themselves, are very apt to exceed their instructions, as was obviously done by the French Agent at Sokoto the other day. It will, also, only be fair to Russia to credit her with liberal intentions so far as the opening of new markets in China is concerned. We can very well understand that the Russian Government would willingly throw open to commerce a port in Manchuria as a sop to Cerberus in order to divert attention from their future designs in that region. It would be a small matter to open one port to the commerce of the world in a large province, even if the policy of the act from a financial and commercial point of view did not commend itself to them. But unfortunately for our peace of mind, the course of Muscovite policy in the Far East has not hitherto been of such a character as to impress us with either its liberality or straightforwardness. It is not for nothing that Russia is accumulating the major portion of her naval strength in these waters, nor is it merely for the protection of her existing interests that she is gradually massing an army at Vladivostock. It is readily understandable that the refusal of Great Britain to participate in any movement for the partition of China has in a way compelled Russia and France to assume a virtue if they have it not. Moreover, it is quite in accordance with Russian diplomacy in past times to attempt to lull mistrust by frank assurances of the most harmless intentions. If, for instance, the receipt of such an assurance as that offered by Count MURAVIEFF would induce Lord SALISBURY to abandon all thought of the re-occupation of Chusan and negotiations for the extension of the Hongkong frontiers in the hinterland of Kowloon, it would not have been made in vain. If, even, the assurance served to throw dust in the eyes of the British Cabinet and led to the suspension of military preparations for the better protection of the Far Eastern Colonies and to the reinforcements to the British Fleet in these waters being countermanded, there would be scarcely suppressed chuckles both on the banks of the Neva and at the Quai d'Orsay.

It may be quite true, and probably is so, that neither Russia nor France has any desire to precipitate a war. They are, perhaps, not yet prepared for such a tremendous cataclysm as a contest between the Great Powers, whether its theatre be in Europe or Asia, must infallibly prove. But though they may not wish for a breach of the peace now prevailing—though the said peace is daily growing more into the semblance of an armed neutrality—they are certainly quite ready to grasp at any opportunity for self aggrandisement which the trend of events or the wheel of fortune may render apparently safe or easy. It is therefore devoutly to be hoped that the British Lion will not be caught napping, or be hood-

winked by fair promises. So far we appear to have scored, morally at any rate. We have maintained our prestige in China and have supplied her financial necessities, receiving in return a concession the benefits of which all the rest of the Treaty Powers will enjoy equally with us. But the opening up of the inland waterways of China to foreign commerce, though beyond question a most important point, is not all or everything Great Britain requires. Her vast trade, built up at so tremendous an outlay, requires constant and adequate protection, and to ensure this she needs, first, to render this farthest outpost of the Empire impregnable to attack; and secondly, to secure another coaling station farther north, which will protect Shanghai, in which port such extensive British commercial and industrial interests have grown up. Without, therefore, laying herself open for a moment to the charge of seeking territorial aggrandisement or of coveting the possessions of the Celestial Sick Man, Great Britain may reasonably ask for such an extension of the boundaries of the Colony of Hongkong as will enable her to effectively protect it from outside attack, as well as the retrocession of Chusan for a coaling station from which to guard the interests of British trade with Central China. Even these demands would not be put forward were it not for the well founded conviction—only too well demonstrated by recent events—that China herself is incapable of preserving Chusan from aggression and by her weakness may any moment precipitate a rupture in the Far East. Great Britain must therefore be prepared for eventualities and place herself in such a position that, whatever happens, she will be able to keep the seas with her warships, leaving the coaling stations to take care of themselves. The value of British trade with the Far East has at last been recognised in the United Kingdom, and the statesmen and newspaper organs of all parties are agreed that that trade must be preserved at all hazards, even—as Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH pithily puts it—“at the cost of war.”

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND INTERESTED MOTIVS.

It was unfortunate, we think, that the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS should have deemed it necessary at the Council meeting on Monday to make an attack on the senior unofficial member and impute to him unworthy motives in respect of the controversy with reference to the site of the new Post Office. It is true that Mr. BELLIOS's right to vote on a particular proposition had previously been called in question by another member on the ground of pecuniary interest, but that was as a matter of general principle, and it was not directly suggested that the hon. member's judgment was in fact biased by self-interest. Nor was it by Mr. CHATER that the objection was taken, but by Mr. WHITEHEAD, and when the latter brought the matter forward in Council he was not supported by Mr. CHATER. Mr. BELLIOS, however, seems to have supposed that the objection was really taken on Mr. CHATER's behalf and he replied with a direct charge of corrupt motives against that gentleman. “The removal of the Post Office and Treasury to the Praya would,” he said, “of course materially enhance the value of the adjoining lots, by ensuring the immediate occupancy at high rents of the great blocks in course of erection or to be erected there, and hence my hon. friend's anxiety to see these offices removed thither.”

H.E. the Acting Governor at once declared this attack to be unfair, but the hon. member immediately repeated that “the hon. gentlemen opposite,” meaning Mr. CHATER and Mr. WHITEHEAD, “have been unable to set aside their own interests.” Mr. WHITEHEAD, so far as we are aware, is not personally interested in property and his name may therefore be left out of the question. As to Mr. CHATER's interests, it is well known that of the buildings now in course of erection and projected on the Reclamation every single room has been let and the demand for offices in that locality having outrun the prospective supply recent applicants have failed to secure accommodation. There is no question, therefore, of ensuring the immediate occupancy at high rents of the property, as a good deal of it has been let on leases of twenty one years, and the shortest term is five years. The value of the property in question would, moreover, be more likely to be enhanced by the erection of mercantile offices than by the erection of a Post Office on the site in question, as in a commercial quarter continuity of commercial offices adds to the value of the whole section, and the breaking of the continuity by the interposition of non-commercial buildings detracts from the value. It may be said that the Post Office is not a non-commercial building, but as a matter of fact it is comparatively seldom that the European staff of foreign firms have occasion to go in person to the Post Office, their business with that establishment being conducted by means of chit-coolies. If the lot in question is put up to public auction there can be no doubt as to its finding eager buyers, and if the owners of the surrounding property acquire it they will be able to make a good deal more out of it than they would gain by the erection of the Post Office on the site. When it was originally proposed to transfer the Post Office from its present site to the Praya Reclamation no word of objection was raised. Lately, when Mr. ORMSBY brought forward a scheme for retaining the establishment on the present site, it met with approval and the preponderance of public opinion seems to be decidedly in its favour. There are some, however, who still believe the transfer would in the long run prove to be for the benefit of the colony, and they are fully entitled to hold that opinion without having corrupt motives imputed to them. It is much to be regretted that that element should have been introduced into the discussion.

### THE SITE OF THE NEW POST OFFICE.

The Director of Public Works stated in the debate in the Legislative Council on the site of the new Post Office that the resolution proposed by him, which was carried, did not commit the Council to any action. The resolution was in fact merely an expression of opinion, and if it should be thought that opinion was a mistaken one it is not too late to alter it. H.E. the Acting Governor said that “the Government has been most anxious to know the real wish of the colony on this subject, because it does not affect us one way or the other, but it affects the colony for all time, or at least for the next sixty or seventy years.” As a means of ascertaining the real wish of the colony it might be advisable to invite an expression of opinion on the subject from the Chamber of Commerce, which is a sufficiently representative body to give weight to any opinion expressed by a decisive majority of its members. The



unofficial members of the Legislative Council are divided in opinion and the Government therefore cannot derive much assistance from that quarter. We have on the one side Mr. CHATER and Mr. WHITEHEAD, and on the other Mr. BELLIOS, Mr. BELL-IRVING, Dr. HO K'AI, and Mr. WEI YUK. Imputations of interested motives have unfortunately been thrown out as between some of these gentlemen. While we do not believe that any one of them would consciously allow his judgment to be influenced by his individual interests the fact may be taken note of for what it is worth that Mr. WHITEHEAD is the only one who is uninterested in property. If it be granted that some of the remainder might benefit by the removal of the Post Office it must also be granted that others would equally benefit by its retention on the present site. In the long run we do not think it would make much difference to any of them, but we should think it would be a satisfaction to the Government, especially in view of General BLACK's remarks, to have an expression of opinion from a representative body sufficiently numerous in its membership to neutralise any possible bias arising from individual interests.

So far the subject has not received that amount of consideration and public discussion which its importance deserves. When Mr. ORMSBY's scheme was launched we expressed our approval of it. Like General BLACK, however, we are interested only in seeing the best scheme adopted, and as a contribution to the discussion we propose to allude to one or two points that have not hitherto been mentioned. We offer them simply for what they are worth and without expressing any further opinion upon the rival schemes as a whole. In the first place, in a city over four miles in length a difference of a couple of hundred yards one way or the other cannot make much difference in the relative centrality of the respective sites under discussion. We have to consider also not only absolute centrality as determined by beelines but also accessibility. As soon as the Praya Reclamation is completed we will have a tramway running along the whole length of the old Praya, turning into Queen's Road by the Cricket Ground, continuing along Queen's Road to Arsenal Street, and thence running along Praya East to East Point and in course of time no doubt to Shauiwan. The stream of traffic will follow the line of the tramway, and the proposed Praya site for the Post Office will be in at least as close touch with the tramway as the present site. The Colonial Treasurer in the course of the debate in Council said the residents of Kowloon ought to be considered and he suggested that the present site would be more convenient for them. We should have thought the Praya site would have been preferred by the Kowloonites, as it would be as near the wharf as the existing site and the road to it would be more agreeable. But if Kowloon should be considered so should the East Point and Wanchai districts, which are rapidly growing in importance and population. As already remarked, a hundred yards one way or the other does not make much difference, but the difference, such as it is, is just as much on the one side as on the other.

The question of cost is in a somewhat hazy condition, but as the difference is not very considerable, and as the colony is not in a poverty stricken condition, the choice ought not to be determined solely by considerations of economy.

We are building for posterity, and the vote that would be most valuable if it were obtainable would be that of the residents of the colony fifty years hence given in the light of the conditions then obtaining. But as we cannot obtain the opinion of posterity we must form our own opinion in the light of past experience. Those who have been resident in the colony for the past twenty or thirty years have seen the Chinese steadily pressing eastward and the Europeans retiring before them. The movement has not reached finality nor is it likely to do so for some time to come. We already have Chinese shops in Queen's Road eastward of the Clock Tower, and although there are still some European establishments to the westward they are not likely to remain there. In a few years the present Post Office site will be completely surrounded by Chinese houses, and if we want to know what posterity will think of the people who erected a new Post Office there the present generation may ask itself what it would have thought if its predecessors had placed the old Post Office in Chinatown. It is said that we should consider the Chinese in this matter and determine it according to their convenience; but there is a note of insincerity in that argument; the zeal for Chinese interests does not strike one as genuine. Moreover, as the city grows there will have to be branch Post Offices both east and west, which will meet local requirements, and the removal of the General Post Office two or three hundred yards away from its present site would not involve a sacrifice of anybody's interests.

The rival schemes being fairly evenly balanced as regards centrality and cost the consideration by which the choice must be mainly determined is that of whether a Chinese quarter or the European quarter is the preferable location for the General Post Office. That the Chinese quarter will spread up to and overlap the site of the present Post Office there can be no doubt. The old Victoria Hotel is already in course of conversion; then, proceeding eastward, we have several shops in Chinese occupation, until we come to that ancient landmark, Messrs. LANE CRAWFORD & Co's establishment. Arrangements, we hear, have already been made by that firm for a lease of premises on the Reclamation, and when the removal takes place the present premises are to be demolished and four storeyed Chinese houses erected in their stead. This brings us up to the Government property known as Crosby's Store, which adjoins the Supreme Court. Looking next to the north side of the present Post Office, it is understood that Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. intend to build new offices on their Reclamation lot, and if that is so there can be no doubt the firm's present offices will be replaced by Chinese houses. We will thus have Chinese property adjoining the present site of the Post Office and Supreme Court on the west and north. If we look to the south, we have on the opposite side of Queen's Road the premises of Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co., Limited, and the New Club. Further to the westward we have a few European stores mixed with Chinese stores, the offices above being occupied by lawyers and others. With the removal of the law courts there will be an exodus of the lawyers from Queen's Road and the European stores will probably find it to their interest to follow the general movement eastward. Messrs. A. S. WATSON and Co. may retain their present premises for their

wholesale and manufacturing departments, but as regards the retail store the same considerations will weigh with them as with others. There still remains the New Club to give a European air to the district, but with the encroachment of the Chinese the members, it may be presumed, will look out for more agreeable surroundings elsewhere, and the property will also yield a better return to the owners upon being converted into Chinese houses. Looking to the eastward we have on the side of Pedder's Street opposite the Post Office the Hongkong Hotel, which many may perhaps be inclined to regard as an impregnable buttress against any further Chinese encroachment in that direction. But the Hotel possesses in its Reclamation lot a much better site for a hotel than the present one, and if it could dispose of its existing block of buildings on satisfactory terms, especially the old building on the Queen's Road frontage, it would naturally be glad to do so. That it will before very long have an opportunity of so disposing of it may be taken for granted. The owners of contiguous property at present in European occupation may be inclined to look with some dismay at the changes thus foreshadowed, but in the long run they will find that the changes will not prove prejudicial to their pecuniary interests, for Chinese property pays well. Even were it otherwise, however, the retention of the Post Office on its present site would have but little effect in preserving the European character of the locality, and what little effect it might have would prove but temporary. Post Office or no Post Office, Queen's Road will inevitably become in the main a Chinese street as far as its junction with Ice House Lane.

The question then is whether the Post Office should be left in a district destined to become Chinese or should be removed into the European quarter, where there is a site available with a seventy-five foot road on all four sides and on which a really handsome building could be erected. The subject is still in the debatable stage, and as the Government professedly desires to ascertain the wishes of the community, but has not yet taken any effective steps to that end, we would suggest a reference to the Chamber of Commerce, and we would further suggest that the Committee of that body should call a general meeting of the members to pronounce upon the matter. We do not wish to be understood ourselves as condemning Mr. ORMSBY's scheme (of which we expressed our approval when it was launched), but we think that before being finally adopted the scheme requires much more careful and general consideration than it has yet received, and it is for the purpose of promoting discussion that we have ventured to offer a few arguments that seem to tell against the scheme. Our columns are open to any one who has any ideas to offer on the subject, but we would request correspondents to argue the question on its own merits and not with reference to any bearing it may be presumed to have on the supposed interests of Mr. CHATER, or Mr. BELLIOS, or any one else except the community at large.

A Taipah telegram of the 16th February published in the Japanese vernacular papers states that the Government has arranged to undertake the construction of the Formosan railways, and Mr. Kawai, a Commissioner in the Formosan Governor-General's Office, has left for Tokyo on this business. The Formosan Electric Light Co. has been wound up.



### NATIVE DAIRIES AND THE MILK SUPPLY.

The report presented to the Sanitary Board on the 24th Feb. by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon with reference to the milk supply from native dairies is calculated to cause consumers some uneasiness. Mr. LADDS says that from the manner in which the milk is collected he should say that it would be very unwise to drink any of it, unless previously boiled, and even then he should hesitate to do so because of the risk to health which might arise from the consumption of such fluid. Hitherto consumers have been under the impression that they could secure absolutely pure milk by patronising one of the European dairies, but Mr. LADDS throws doubt on this, for he says:—"Upon reference to the attached list, it will be seen that all three of the dairy farms have been buying milk from these native cowsheds, one of them being indirectly supplied with milk from Canton; and in future their customers would do well if in protection of their own interests they were to insist upon a guarantee from the dairy supplying them that they had altogether ceased from purchasing from outside sources." The dairy farms may perhaps say that they do not purchase milk from the native cowsheds for the purpose of palming it off upon their customers as coming from their own cows, but for the purpose of feeding it to their calves, or for butter-making, or for other such purposes in connection with the working of their farms. Indeed we have known cases in which, upon its own supply of milk running short, a foreign dairy has informed its customers that it could only supply milk procured from native sources as a matter of convenience for the customers. Whether that is the rule or an exception we are unable to say, but the matter is in such a position that some explanation from the dairies seems called for in reply to Mr. LADDS's strictures.

We must confess, however, that we would have liked more details as to the grounds on which Mr. LADDS bases his sweeping condemnation of the native dairies, for his report is couched in very general terms. It appears he was asked to report upon the milk supply of the Colony, "and more particularly as regards what becomes of the milk which is collected in the cowsheds owned by Chinese and Indians." Mr. LADDS accordingly gives a list of the principal customers of each of the Indian and Chinese cowsheds, but as to the milk itself, he confines himself to saying that it would be unwise to drink it. It would appear from the minutes attached to the report that the Army and Navy draw their supplies from native sources, and with the strict medical surveillance exercised in these Services we should think that if the milk were really an effective source of danger it would soon be detected and the source of supply changed. There are also regulations in force for the control of dairies which are understood to ensure a supply of pure water for cleansing purposes, and the inspection should also be such as to ensure a reasonable observance of cleanliness. If the conditions under which the milk is collected are really as bad as would appear from Mr. LADDS's report it follows that the system of inspection must be radically defective, and this throws the responsibility upon the Government. It would be satisfactory, we think, if a small commission were appointed to visit the dairies in company with Mr. LADDS, the Naval and Army Medical Services being represented upon the commission. If

matters are really as bad as Mr. LADDS represents it is disgraceful that milk should be obtained from native dairies for the naval and military hospitals.

### NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Government, we think, will on consideration recognise the justice of the unofficial members' request that all motions to be brought forward in the Legislative Council should be set out at length on the agenda. It may be assumed that the members will probably have a general acquaintance with the subject matter of a resolution, but they are placed at an unfair disadvantage if they are kept in ignorance of the exact terms of the resolution until they hear them from the lips of the proposer. If the matter is one upon which they wish to move an amendment they are entitled to know the terms of the resolution in order that they may be able with due deliberation to draft their amendment in accordance therewith, which they cannot always be expected to do in the heat of debate and without a copy of the resolution before them. The omission of the resolutions, and questions also, from the agenda is of quite recent date and we believe originated from a feeling of irritation on the part of the Government officials at certain rather long-winded resolutions of which notice was given by the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, which swelled the agenda paper to rather portentous size. The hon. gentleman is a thorn in the side of the Government and perhaps it was thought undesirable to give him any measure of publicity that could possibly be avoided, or perhaps it was a mere coincidence, but certain it is that it was at a time when Mr. WHITEHEAD was rather prolific of long resolutions that the practice of printing them with the orders of the day was discontinued. General BLACK, we think, will recognise the fairness of reverting to the old practice and of setting aside any paltry objections thereto arising from official hostility to Mr. WHITEHEAD.

### DISADVANTAGES OF BRITISH SHIPPING.

British shipowners complain of the disadvantage at which they are placed owing to the greater stringency of the British merchant shipping law as compared with that of other countries. The load line regulations are a particular grievance, as they compel British ships to carry relatively less cargo than foreign vessels. We have seen it suggested that these regulations should be repealed on the ground that they are no longer necessary, shipowners and insurance companies being very well able to take care of themselves. No one, we think, has ever entertained much doubt about the ability of shipowners and insurance companies in the direction indicated; it was not for their protection that the load line regulations were introduced, but for the benefit of the seaman, to prevent the loss of life that formerly occurred through sending overloaded ships to sea. There is therefore not much prospect of the legislature repealing the law now in force, but greater equality between British and foreign ships might be established by requiring foreign vessels sailing out of a British port to comply with the British regulations. They already have to do so with regard to the carrying of emigrants, and there is no good reason why they should not equally be required to do so with regard to cargo. This would not bring about absolute equality, for foreign vessels would still have an advantage when

trading between ports where British regulations do not apply, but when sailing from a British port it is a plain injustice that a foreign vessel should be accorded any greater advantages than are enjoyed by vessels under the British flag.

### TRICKS IN THE COAL TRADE.

In the speech made by the Chairman at the recent meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, there is one unpleasantly suggestive passage. The handling and storage of coal, Mr. BELL-IRVING said, was a subject which had engaged the attention of the directors, but they found it impossible to improve matters to any extent, "for the reason that a public company cannot resort to those subtle expedients by means of which others, in the same line of business, appear to command so large a measure of success." The obvious suggestion is that the expedients—"expedients" would be a more appropriate word)—referred to are of a corrupt and dishonest nature. The subject is not a new one. We do not recollect having seen it so openly referred to before, but in conversation one often hears curious tales about the way in which coal cargoes are weighed in and out and of the perquisites attaching to the trade. It would be well if the matter could be thoroughly ventilated, and Mr. BELL-IRVING's reference may possibly serve a useful purpose by putting parties interested on the alert, though the practices complained of are of a kind which it is difficult to detect.

### THE SITE OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

It is with much pleasure we learn that the idea of placing the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Hospital for Women and Children in the grounds attached to the Government Civil Hospital is being reconsidered. At the time the Hospital was decided upon we urged that it should be placed on Bowen Road, or on some other site at a reasonable distance from Chinatown. Although the expediency of this was recognised by many, the decision at that time was in favour of the site in the Civil Hospital grounds, although it had been officially declared that those grounds were already over-crowded. Apparently the objections to that site have now been recognised, and the present proposal is to buy Craigieburn, at the Peak. Perhaps the Peak will prove a better site than Bowen Road, but it is at all events a matter for congratulation that the institution is not to be placed on the site originally decided upon.

Telegrams to the Manila Comercio state that the disaster to the *Maine* at Havana was caused by the dynamos of the electric light installation communicating fire to the magazine, which caused an explosion of the powder and torpedo blowing up the ship with the whole of the crew. Two hundred and eighty were killed and hundreds injured. The greater number of the survivors were picked up by boats from the Spanish cruiser *Alfonse XIII*.

A San Francisco paper says that the British steamer *Commonwealth*, 6,000 tons, having been abandoned on the coast of Vancouver Island and picked up by the steamer *Willapa*, was safely anchored in Sidney Inlet. The *Commonwealth* was bound from Kobe to Portland and broke her shaft. She drifted for three weeks and finally came to anchor near Nootka Sound. The anchor chains parted, and the crew took the boats in panic and made land safely. The *Willapa*, having towed the abandoned vessel safely, went in search of the crew, and picked them up about twenty-five miles distant.



## HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on 28th Feb. afternoon in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the ACTING GOVERNOR, Major-General BLACK, C.B.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Ho Kai.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS.

Hon. J. J. BELL IRVING.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE NEW GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Before beginning the business of the day, I may mention to you the nature of a telegram that I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which he intimates that Sir Henry Blake will leave England on or about the 1st of May.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 1) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURY seconded.

Carried.

THE PROPOSED NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In regard to the resolution of the Director of Public Works on the subject of the new Government Offices, I think it is hardly necessary to move the resolution again. It was moved at the last meeting of Council and therefore it is better just to continue the discussion upon it.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before the resolution is discussed, may I move the resolution which stands in my name, in connection with the new Government Offices?

HIS EXCELLENCY—In reality you may move the motion now, but the Government do not propose to put the paper asked for on the table. The whole of the information contained in that paper relative to the question of the Government buildings has been before you in the other papers—absolutely the whole of it. I think I am right, Mr. Colonial Secretary, in saying that. I have read it myself and I think I am right in saying that the whole of the information regarding the Government Offices is before you. That is my impression.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is nothing, sir, in that despatch which would in any way facilitate the consideration of the question, which has been before the public for some time, and nothing which would enable us to come to a speedy decision on the question under discussion.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I would point out that that despatch, dated 5th June, 1896, requests the Government to forward the report by the Committee appointed to report on the Government Offices, and any further explanations the Government may wish to give. I submit, sir—

HIS EXCELLENCY—Are you moving the motion now? I have told you already that the Government do not propose to put a copy of the covering despatch on the table for the reasons I have just stated.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think, sir, with your permission, I will move the motion that stands in my name:—"That the Government lay upon the table a copy of its covering despatch forwarding to the Colonial Office the Report, dated 23rd November, 1896, of the Committee appointed 8th September, 1894, by His Excellency Sir William Robinson to report on the condition of the Government Offices and the desirability of locating the various Government departments under one roof, together with a copy of further explanations the Government may have given in connection therewith and as

called for by the Secretary of State's despatch No. 126 of 5th June, 1896." Sir, the contents of that despatch, I feel sure, would be of very great interest to unofficial members. Certain plans were prepared by the former Director of Public Works, which, I understand, the Committee appointed by Sir W. Robinson to inquire into the question, condemned. From a leading article in the *Daily Press* of the 3rd of this month, I observe that—"The plans sent home, and which have been condemned by Messrs. Webb and Bell, the Colonial Office Consulting Architects, are those for which Mr. Cooper, the late Director of Public Works, was responsible. As they had already been condemned by the Committee appointed to consider the matter, it seems a little unfortunate that they should not have been at once discarded and competitive designs invited, for their submission to Messrs. Webb and Bell has only resulted in delay and needless expense." It would, sir, be of interest to know whether the plans which were condemned by the Committee were really those which the Government sent home. We cannot, I think, decide on this question thoroughly until we have the despatch from the Government with any further explanations the Government may have deemed it expedient to give the Secretary of State.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The resolution is not seconded. The next motion is in the name of the Director of Public Works. That motion has already been moved and the discussion may now proceed.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, if I may be allowed to ask a question before the discussion is commenced I would like an explanation from the Director of Public Works. At the last meeting of Council he said, "The resolution I have proposed commits the Council to nothing." I should like to know what that really means. I do not understand it.

HIS EXCELLENCY—A question of that sort can hardly be asked. The discussion must proceed. The Director of Public Works has the right of reply after the motion has been argued by the hon. gentlemen present, and perhaps then the Director of Public Works will refer to the statement he has made, but the discussion must now proceed in the ordinary way.

The members then proceeded to discuss the resolution, which was in the following terms:—

"That in the opinion of this Council it is expedient—(a) To construct the New Law Courts and accessory offices on Plot No. 2 on the New Reclamation, namely, the larger of the two lots reserved for Government Offices, immediately in front of the City Hall; and (b) to retain the sites of the present Post Office and Supreme Court for the erection of a new Post Office, which should also afford accommodation for the Treasury and such other offices as may be decided on."

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Your Excellency, in support of the resolution which is now before the Council and in connection with the recent report of the Public Works Committee on the proposed new Government Offices, I wish to offer a few remarks. I think they are called for, inasmuch as I am put on my defence by the action of the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce, who entered a protest against my voting on the division which took place. He has asserted that he took this course because I as an interested party ought not to vote. In that case I respectfully suggest that he should have included the hon. member representing the Bench of Justices in his protest. My interest in this matter is small compared to that of the last named gentleman, whose extensive holdings on the Praya frontage are so well known. The property known as Beaconsfield, which the hon. Director of Public Works proposes the Government should purchase, was not offered by me; it was leased for a period of ten years at a rental of \$400 per month to Butterfield and Swire and considering the rise in rents since then it is now cheaply let at a rental of \$425 per month for six years to the Government, which will give me a return of 6 per cent. per annum on the proposed purchase money. I am spending a large sum on its repair and improvement, and I consider it to be worth more than the amount named. At any rate it is worth that to me, and it is immaterial to me whether it is purchased from me or not. Beaconsfield covers an area of 14,754 square feet,

\$80,000 for the whole property would make a square foot worth \$5.424, a very low price indeed compared to \$12 a square foot, a valuation put upon the present Post Office site by the hon. senior unofficial member. The hon. members opposite may entertain doubts in regard to the accuracy of this valuation. In that case they have my full consent to lay before the Government for sale any of their own houses provided it is cheaper than, and is as suitable as, Beaconsfield.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Excuse me one moment, Mr. Belilios. Will you kindly read the motion before the Council, Mr. Clerk.

The Clerk of Councils thereupon read the motion.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—The removal of the Post Office and Treasury to the Praya would of course materially enhance the value of the adjoining lots, by ensuring the immediate occupancy at high rents of the great blocks in course of erection or to be erected there, and hence my hon. friend's anxiety to see these offices removed thither.

HIS EXCELLENCY—No, no, I do not think that is legitimate, Mr. Belilios. I do not think you should impute motives.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—They attacked me.

HIS EXCELLENCY—No attack has been made in this Council on you, Mr. Belilios. I must ask you to keep to the point. I should have defended you if there had been an attack, because I am certainly satisfied that you acted as an honest man in the interests of the community, but you must not cast aspersions on hon. gentlemen who have not said anything to which you can take objection. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—The convenience of a large majority of the public has obviously been lost sight of by the hon. gentlemen opposite, who have been unable to set aside their own interests. The hon. member for the Justices, in his scheme, proposes to build a lofty Post Office on a portion of the marine lot on the Praya. He proposes out of 34,230 square feet of valuable land to utilize only 25,867 square feet, leaving 8,363 square feet for yards, thus sacrificing some \$80,000 of the public funds. Surely the hon. member will not for one moment think of dealing with land belonging to himself in this manner. On the contrary he will build to the very utmost limit of his boundary. He bases his estimates and figures on mere supposition, bare opinion. The figures I propose to place before the Council are based on authority—on the report of the Commission. It never occurred to the members of the Commission to retain the Post Office and Treasury on their present site; their attention was too much riveted to the Government reserves on the Reclamation. The question was therefore never discussed by them. Thanks, however, to the arrival of the present Director of Public Works we have new ideas and a proposal which will not only save the colony a large sum of money but secure its greatest convenience. My hon. friend opposite contends that the site of the present Post Office is more valuable than the Praya sites; if that is really the case it is so because the position is more central, and therefore better adapted for the purpose. By utilizing the present site we should also save a large sum in piling foundations and by using some of the present materials. I am confident the public are in favour of the scheme put forward by the Director of Public Works, and I believe my hon. friends opposite, if not unconsciously biased by their own interests or inclinations, would be compelled to admit its superior advantages. Turning now to the memorandum of my hon. friend the member representing the Bench of Justices, he has therein set down three items, viz., \$150,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000 or an aggregate of \$240,000 as the sum required to erect his ideal block of Government Offices on Plot No. 1, the marine lot in front of the City Hall and close to the Hongkong Club. On reference to page 8 of the report of the Commission appointed to consider this question, it will be found that \$700,000 is laid down as the amount necessary to cover Plots 1 and 2 with buildings. The hon. member on my right (Mr. Ormsby) proposes to devote \$400,000 of this sum to the erection of new Law Courts on Plot No. 2 next to the City Hall. This will leave \$300,000 for the provision of Post Office and other departmental buildings. My hon. friend the member for the Justices







of saving three lakhs of dollars or more, and even if we take off the amount which the hon. member (Mr. Whitehead) says ought to be deducted from it, say twenty per cent., it would still be more economical by a sum of nearly two lakhs of dollars. Whether the scheme is efficient or not is a matter no doubt for those who will have to occupy the main premises, that is to say, the Postmaster-General, the Treasurer, the Director of Public Works himself, and others. Whether the new scheme would provide enough room for them and in the most convenient form they can give their own testimony upon, but assuming for the present that they are in favour of the scheme, there is therefore no doubt that the scheme proposed by the Director of Public Works would be the most efficient. Now I say that the keeping of the Post Office and the Treasury on the present site is undoubtedly the most convenient to the majority of the European community—(hear, hear)—and decidedly so to all the Chinese community; and as representing the Chinese community I must say that so far as I know their opinion is unanimously in favour of keeping the Post Office and the Treasury on the present site. An assertion has been made that the Post Office is generally and mostly used by large European firms. Now, sir, I would remind the gentleman who made that statement that during the last few years we have tried our utmost to make the Chinese use the Post Office, and it will not do after having got the Chinese to make use of the Post Office to remove it some five minutes' or even three and a half minutes' walk away from the central position of the town and entailing on them an extra two cents in the hire of a ricksha. And, furthermore, the Chinese make use of the Treasury more than the Europeans. The European sends his cheque in payment of rates, taxes, and so on, but the Chinese have to go to the Treasury and pay in cash and get a receipt from the Treasurer. In that way also three and a half minutes' walk more or less to the Chinese would be a great hardship. Of course if other cases have to be considered we may force the Chinese to walk a little further, but since we can save a couple of lakhs of dollars by this scheme I really do not see why we should vote for the Post Office and Treasury to be removed to a plot of land a long distance away from the centre of the town. Especially to remove that site would be an inconvenience to the majority of the European community as well. For these reasons I have no hesitation in supporting the new scheme as propounded by the Director of Public Works, and I shall cordially support the resolution that he has proposed.

Hon. WEI YUK—Sir, I quite concur with all that the hon. member (Hon. Ho Kai) has said.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Sir, I came prepared this afternoon to combat arguments against the resolution, but I am in the pleasant position of not being called upon to do so. It appears to me, sir, that the first consideration—the chief consideration—in regard to the Post Office site is that it should be on the main road, and, other things being equal, I think that the old site is as suitable for the purpose of a Post Office as any new site. I do not think there can be any question for a moment that the old site is more central than the new site. It seems to me, sir, that the old site is a most commanding site. If you knock down the Clock Tower, as I believe it is the intention of the Government to do, you will have a very fine frontage to the east and you have already a fairly wide road on the south, and with the skill of the builder we could no doubt have a building surrounded on all four sides by roads. Now, sir, it has not been stated in this Council to-day—but I may as well refer to that point—that there is doubt in some quarters about the sufficiency of light and air on the old site. If you have roads all round the building it seems to me that that question in the hands of skilled workmen, and skilled designers, is a question that could be very easily solved. It is not a question of superfluity of light. Undoubtedly the position on the Praya would give a good deal more light than the old site, but the question is, could the old site provide sufficient air and light? I think there can be no doubt—in view of proper construction of windows, &c., and an open space all round the building—that the building would be furnished with sufficient light and air. Something has been said to-day about the great advantage in the saving of time if you

could transfer the mails from the wharf just across a 75-foot road. Suppose that saves two minutes. Those persons who wait for their mails—the Chinese and the Europeans living on the upper levels—will have to go a further walk after getting their letters, so really it is not a saving to them. It may be a saving to the Post Office, but I think the matter which should be considered is the convenience of the public. There is one portion of the community who are peculiarly located. I mean the residents of Kowloon. How about their claims? Is the old site or the new site more convenient to them? Is it more convenient to land at the old Pedder's Wharf and go to the old site or to land at the old Pedder's Wharf and go to the new site? With regard to the remarks which the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce made about the original Committee having sat for two years and two months considering the scheme for the erection of Government buildings and then unanimously considering that the proper site for the Post Office was on the Praya, I surmise that that question of building on the old site was never brought before the Committee. Nor does any sentiment enter into the question of retaining the old site; it is a matter of convenience and either the people of Hongkong nor the members of this Council have any sentimental regrets. I do not propose to deal with the financial side of the scheme because I do not think it is before the Council. However, if I am allowed, I should like to say that I have worked out the figures, and it appears to me that whichever way we look at it the building of offices on the old site is the most economical scheme that has been put before us. I ink, sir, that we are in need of new offices, and I think we should hurry on this work as fast as we can. Now with regard to my own office, the Treasury, I am quite of opinion that the Treasury ought to be re-erected on its present site, and I think the balance of convenience points that way. I have here rough figures showing, the number of Europeans who might use the Treasury and the number of Chinese. The number of European owners of tenement in Victoria and the villages is 297 and the number of Chinese owners of tenements, in Victoria alone is 1,066. That seems to prove conclusively as far as the population is concerned that the balance of convenience is in favour of the Treasury being where it is.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I think there is very little for me to reply to, but I should like to make some remarks with regard to the statements by the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce. It may have been a slip when he described the site of the old Post Office as being the centre of the European portion of the town. As I say, it may have been a slip, and if it was I do not wish to take advantage of it; but that description could not be applied to the site on the front of the Praya, which, when the Naval reclamation is completed, will be at one corner, I may say, of the business quarter of the town. There is the harbour in front on one side and the Naval reclamation a few hundred yards on the other side. With regard to the sale of Plot I, I said nothing in my resolution about the financial side of the question. I said that the Post Office and the Treasury could be built on the present site for \$90,000. I have gone into the figures in several different ways and I am convinced that the estimate is a very fair one. I said nothing about the sale of lot No. 1, because I hope eventually that it will not be necessary to sell that at all. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank have treated the colony in a most handsome manner, leaving two front lots vacant, while they also gave up a strip of land on each side of their building, widening Wardley Street and the old Praya, and they also gave up a strip of land on the south side, an act which unfortunately was not copied by the building next to it. With regard to the remark that there is no need for hurry, the present state of the Post Office shows there is considerable need for hurry. Never in my experience have I seen a Post Office worse arranged or more inconvenient than the Hongkong Post Office. There is no proper place to put the mails, no security, and confusion runs in the place because there are no proper arrangements and no space. Therefore I think considerable hurry is necessary. With regard to

the new Pedder's Wharf, I think perhaps it is not known that the new pier has been ordered. It will be 200 feet long and 40 feet wide and certainly the finest in the harbour. It has already been ordered from England and when it is erected there will be no fear whatever of overcrowding it even with the ferry service. There will be plenty of room for the mails to be brought in there and to be transferred by means of a tramway—as I hope they will be—into the new Post Office. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was then put and carried by a majority of eight votes. Hon. T. H. Whitehead and Hon. C. P. Chater voted against the resolution.

#### THE PRISON ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend The Prison Ordinance, 1885.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages as no alteration was made in Committee.

#### NATURALIZATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Naturalization of Leung Pui Chi, alias Leung Chak Ch'ang, alias Leung Chung.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time and passed through its remaining stages.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

### SUPREME COURT.

2nd March.

#### IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS (ASSESSOR).

#### MAK LOK AND OTHERS V. S.S. "HAITAN."

This was an action for damages arising out of a collision between the British steamship *Haitan* (Master, J. S. Roach), and the *Kam Shem Hing* junk (Master, Mak Lok).

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defendants.

Mr. Francis explained that the collision took place somewhere in the China Sea on the evening of the 4th August last. In the answers setting forth the preliminary acts the junk stated that the time of the collision was 9 p.m.; the steamship said it was 11 p.m. The time was practically immaterial, but presumably, of course, the steamer was correct. The junk gave the place of the collision as fifteen miles south-west of Chi Lang Point, and the steamer said it was eight miles west of Pedro Blanco island. That was a difference of fifteen miles, but it was immaterial. The junk said the wind was N. E., light, and gradually dying away; the steamer said the wind was E, force about 4. According to the junk the weather was clear and stars were visible; the steamer said it was cloudy and overcast and very dark but clear on the water. That difference might become material. The junk said that when the *Haitan* was first seen they were steering about S.W. with moderate speed; the *Haitan* said when they sighted the junk their course was E. by N. half N., speed about eleven knots. The junk said she carried two white lights, one on the foremast and the other on the mizenmast; the steamer said she carried the regulation mast head and side lights and that the junk carried no lights. The steamer's lights were not disputed. The junk said that she sighted the steamer three miles off bearing right ahead; the steamer said that she caught sight of the junk about a quarter of a mile off and bearing about a point on her port bow. The junk said that the red light of the steamer was seen just before the collision; the steamer said that just before the collision someone ran along the junk's deck with a lantern. The junk said she tried to avoid the collision by porting when the white light of the steamer was seen, by burning paper, and by shouting; the steamer said that her helm was put hard astarboard with the object of passing on the starboard side of the junk, which would



have been well cleared had she not altered her course to starboard. Both sides agreed that the steamer struck the junk on the port side, sinking the junk; the occupants were rescued by the steamer. The junk alleged fault on the part of the steamer, which did not have a proper look-out on board, because she neglected to port her helm and did not keep out of the way of the junk; the steamer alleged that the junk had no light, no proper look-out, and she altered her course when the vessels were approaching one another, thereby causing the collision. Counsel contended that the steamer on her own admissions was clearly in the wrong. If there had been a proper look-out on the steamer the junk would have been sighted more than a quarter of a mile off. By starboarding her helm the steamer was brought near the junk, thus rendering a collision almost a certainty, as she turned towards the junk. The evidence would show that, lights or no lights, the steamer ought to have sighted the junk more than a quarter of a mile off.

Evidence was then called and the hearing was still proceeding on the 4th March.

#### HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

##### ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF RINDERPEST.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on 1st March at the offices. Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided and there were also present—Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT—We are called here to-day to consider an outbreak of rinderpest amongst the cattle at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum, and the recommendations made by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. I ask the Secretary to read a letter which has been received.

The SECRETARY read the following letter:—  
Government Offices,  
21st February, 1898.

Sir.—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that rinderpest has broken out amongst the cattle at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum, the property of the Dairy Farm Company.

The sick animals have been isolated from the healthy ones and strict measures for effectual disinfection taken.

No danger to the milk supply need be apprehended, as lactation is suspended immediately when the disease invades the animal.

A watchman might be stationed at the entrance of the farm to prevent the removal of animals and to carry out any other instructions that he might receive.

I think these precautions will suffice for the present.—I have the honour to be, &c.

C. VIVIAN LADDS,  
Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

After reading this letter the SECRETARY said—That letter was at once circulated to members for approval and the recommendations have been carried out. A second letter came in yesterday and that is at present in course of circulation.

The PRESIDENT—It is evident that these animals are suffering from a dangerously infectious disease. In accordance with section 6 of Ordinance 17 of 1887, "if it appears to the Sanitary Board that an animal placed in segregation is suffering from a dangerously infectious disease, it shall cause such animal to be forthwith slaughtered, and the carcass thereof shall be disposed of in such manner as the Board may deem fit." Section 7 says—"If it appears to the Sanitary Board that any animal has been in contact or in the same herd with animals suffering from disease, it may at discretion cause such animal to be slaughtered and the carcass thereof shall be disposed of in such manner as the Board may deem fit." Mr. Ladds recommends that these animals be slaughtered. It is not a question of one or two animals, it is a question of nine. He also recommends that the owners be compensated for the loss of those cattle. Section 3 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 says—"The Governor in Council shall direct that out of the public revenue of the colony compensation shall be paid as follows for any animal slaughtered under the provisions of the Ordinance." If you turn

to sub-section 2 of section 3 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 you will find that "When an animal has shown symptoms of disease after being over fourteen days in the colony one half its value immediately before it became infected shall be given." Sub-section 3 says—"When an animal has shown symptoms of disease, but has been in contact or in the same herd with diseased cattle compensation shall be given." So we have power to recommend the Government to grant this compensation. I think I am right in saying that in the former attack by this disease the animals were allowed to die. They were not slaughtered and the Government did not compensate. The only question is whether the Board thinks it advisable to slaughter and compensate or to allow the animals to be isolated to follow the course of the disease and die.

The SECRETARY here read the following second letter:—

Government Offices,  
28th February, 1898.

Sir.—Adverting to my letter of 21-2-98 reporting an outbreak of rinderpest at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum, I now have the honour to advise, as all the precautions which have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease have proved useless, that the Board now order the slaughter of the remaining nine European bred cattle at the farm and with compensation to the amount of \$1,800 for them under the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 and the by-laws made thereunder.

There would yet remain sixteen native bred cattle upon the farm, but I do not advise their slaughter at present, having reason to believe that they will not contract the disease—I have the honour to be, &c.

C. VIVIAN LADDS.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

The PRESIDENT—I asked Mr. Ladds to be present here this morning so that he might answer any question you may think necessary.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Are these nine already diseased?

Mr. LADDS—Three of them; the other six are all right.

The PRESIDENT—You suggest that these six should be slaughtered?

Mr. LADDS—Yes.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Are the healthy ones to be used as food?

Mr. LADDS—No.

Mr. EDE—How would Mr. Ladds arrive at the valuation? So far as I see from section 3 the animals must be over fourteen days in the colony.

The PRESIDENT—How long have they been in the colony?

Mr. LADDS—Months, and some of them years.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Is it necessary to recommend this?

The PRESIDENT—The only question before the Board is whether we consider it necessary to recommend to the Government that these animals be slaughtered or whether they should be simply segregated as before during a similar attack in 1896. The animals were not slaughtered then. Personally I do not see the object of slaughtering these healthy cattle.

Mr. EDE—Perhaps Mr. Ladds will tell us why he thinks it necessary to slaughter them.

Mr. LADDS—Because we have been isolating them and the disease has spread to healthy ones, and it is likely to spread to the whole of them.

Mr. EDE—Will it spread to the native cattle?

Mr. LADDS—I do not think so.

The PRESIDENT—My experience in 1896 proved that we could isolate the cattle, because the disease broke out at the Dairy Farm and did not spread to the other farms. A watchman was put on the premises and the cattle remained there and they nearly all contracted the disease and died. I think we are justified in following a similar course now.

Mr. EDE—I think you will have to slaughter the diseased animals at once, because you cannot leave the diseased animals among the rest of the herd.

The PRESIDENT—If the others have been amongst them they have probably got the disease now.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—We did not think there was any danger to other dairies.

The PRESIDENT—That is our point, of course.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—There are only these nine that are not native bred cattle. How many have died?

Mr. LADDS—Eight or ten; I am not quite sure.

The PRESIDENT—It is evidently a very infectious disease. In 1896 it spread like wildfire. If we kill these nine I do not suppose it will stop the disease.

Mr. EDE—Mr. Ladds is of opinion that it will. It will be better to order the slaughter of all the diseased animals and as the others show symptoms of the disease Mr. Ladds should be given authority to have them slaughtered also. I understand that with rinderpest you must not only remove the killed carcass of the animal but disinfect the place and do all sorts of things.

The PRESIDENT—Can Mr. Ladds inform us what is the period of incubation?

Mr. LADDS—It is indefinite. I think if you do not follow my advice you run a great deal of risk of getting the disease on the other side where there are 170 animals. If you have to kill those animals it will be a great thing for the Government.

The PRESIDENT—In 1896 they were not slaughtered.

Mr. LADDS—No, but there is the risk.

The PRESIDENT—How far is the other farm off?

Mr. LADDS—400 or 500 yards.

The PRESIDENT—Will you make a motion, Mr. Ede?

Mr. EDE—I have no objection to moving that the diseased cattle be slaughtered at once and that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be authorized to slaughter as soon as any of the others show symptoms of the disease, and that the carcasses be disposed of so that the disease shall not spread. Steps should also be taken to disinfect the premises in a proper manner. The question of compensation can be referred to the Government.

The PRESIDENT—You move that Mr. Ladds' suggestion be carried out?

Mr. EDE—Except of course the slaughter of the healthy cattle. When they show the first symptoms I say they should be slaughtered.

The PRESIDENT—I second that motion because I think that during the outbreak in 1896 that course was not followed, and it is more satisfactory to try to eradicate the disease, if possible.

Mr. EDE—It spread very rapidly last time.

The PRESIDENT—This is a much more scientific way, at any rate.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Board then adjourned.

##### RINDERPEST AGAIN UNDER DISCUSSION.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 3rd March at the offices of the Board. Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary). Mr. C. Vivian Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) was also present.

The PRESIDENT—I have called you together, gentlemen, because I think it is necessary for the Sanitary Board to declare the farm at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum, an infected area in accordance with bye-law 12, Schedule A., of the Cattle Diseases Ordinance. The bye-law says—"Where it appears to the Sanitary Board that disease exists or has within fifty-six days existed in any place where animals are kept, the Board may declare such place to be infected and take such steps to prevent the spread of the disease as it deems necessary." Of course it is optional with the Board whether they declare the farm infected or not, but in 1896 we declared the Dairy Farm an infected area, and that practically meant that no one could go into the farm and no one could get out. Taking into consideration the probable way in which this disease is spread, either by fodder, soiled clothing, or emanations from the affected cattle, I am of opinion that we ought to declare the farm an infected area.

Mr. EDE—What steps will be taken after that?

The PRESIDENT—Then, in accordance with section 13, "when a place has been declared to be infected a placard shall be posted to that



effect and the removal therefrom, without the sanction of the Sanitary Board, of any animal, carcase, fodder, litter, utensil, or other thing therein is prohibited."

Mr. EDE—Are you going to prohibit the men going in and out of the farm?

The PRESIDENT—Yes; that is the course we took in 1896.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—What I want to know is about the watchman. One watchman cannot be on duty there throughout the twenty-four hours of the day.

The SECRETARY—I think I can get two other watchmen within twenty-four hours.

The PRESIDENT—I think the watchmen can be obtained. The police are absolutely necessary for that purpose, our Secretary will be able to obtain the watchmen.

Mr. EDE—How are you going to prevent the people in that place from communicating with the outside? On the last occasion we had some arrangement by which the people should come out after adopting certain precautions.

The PRESIDENT—I think it will be more satisfactory for the Secretary to write to the Dairy Farm suggesting the adoption of the steps which were taken in 1896. Then a watchman was placed on the premises and no one was allowed to come out.

Mr. EDE—How was the food taken to them?

The SECRETARY—I think some arrangements were made for the food to be carried there.

The PRESIDENT—I should like to mention that in 1894 there was an attack of rinderpest amongst the cattle before the plague broke out in this Colony; again in 1896 there was another outbreak of rinderpest before the plague epidemic of that year.

Mr. EDE—I noticed that.

The PRESIDENT—There may be some connection between the two. I think there very probably is.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I do not see anything in these regulations about preventing people from going in or coming out of the farm.

The PRESIDENT—It states so here.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—All it states is that the removal of "any animal, carcase, fodder, litter, utensil, or other thing therein is prohibited."

The PRESIDENT—Nothing can come out of the place.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—There is no law to compel them to remain there.

Mr. EDE—They were recommended to remain there for their own protection.

The SECRETARY—They did that of their own accord. We recommended it, but we had no power to compel it. We did not order it.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—There is no power to prevent the people from having communication with the outside world.

The PRESIDENT—"The removal of any animal, carcase, fodder, litter utensil or other thing therein is prohibited."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.—I know it is.

The PRESIDENT—They are liable to a penalty for a breach of these bye-laws, but it does not prevent a coolie from going out, if he seizes his opportunity.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Coolies did go out; one or two did. Our powers are limited. We have got to stop the infection going out. If a man chooses to keep his servants in it is all right, but we cannot compel him.

The PRESIDENT—The object of course is to prevent the disease as far as we possibly can from spreading to the opposite farm.

Mr. EDE—Under Section 12 the Board can "take such steps to prevent the spread of the disease as it deems necessary." Therefore I should think we could order the people to remain there, but we might advise the manager to give the order.

The PRESIDENT—I move, that Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum, be declared an area infected with rinderpest.

Mr. EDE—Three cattle were slaughtered, Mr. Ladds?

Mr. Ladds—Yes.

Mr. EDE—Has there been any disease amongst the other six?

Mr. Ladds—No, not so far.

The PRESIDENT—Any fever?

Mr. Ladds—Not so far.

The PRESIDENT—Have they been examined to-day?

Mr. Ladds—Yes, I went out there to-day.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—How many cattle are there altogether?

Mr. Ladds—Six European bred cattle and sixteen native bred cattle.

The PRESIDENT—How many cattle have already died of the disease in addition to those slaughtered?

Mr. Ladds—Twelve, I think; I am not sure.

Mr. EDE—All European cattle?

Mr. Ladds—Yes.

Mr. EDE—You expressed the opinion last time that the native bred cattle were not likely to catch the disease.

Mr. Ladds—No, I said that it appeared that the native bred cattle had had the disease before and therefore were perhaps immuned, but they are just as likely to catch the disease as the others.

Mr. EDE—Is it safe to allow the native bred cattle, who are supposed to be immuned, to go out and to be put somewhere else?

The PRESIDENT—No, certainly not, I should say. Ask Mr. Ladds.

Mr. Ladds—I think the best plan would be to remove these European bred cattle some distance from the present infected sheds, then disinfect the whole place, and open the place again.

The PRESIDENT—By that means you may infect another spot.

Mr. Ladds—Don't remove them off the farm, but into another shed. There is plenty of room down the hill side. There is an old bungalow; I think it's called Chater's bungalow.

The PRESIDENT—That is a matter of arrangement with the Dairy Farm employees. I think Mr. Ladds might arrange with the manager of Sassoon's Villa.

Mr. EDE—There are certain native cattle which are supposed to be immuned and are giving milk. By declaring this place infected we prevent the milk from coming out without the sanction of the Sanitary Board.

The PRESIDENT—There are, I understand, 170 cattle in the other farm.

Mr. EDE—If it is necessary to stop the milk we will do so, but if it is not necessary I think it should not be done.

Mr. Ladds—I think there is no reason to stop the milk. Section 13 says "without the sanction of the Sanitary Board." I do not see why you should not let them do it if you cannot prevent coolies from going out with the milk.

The PRESIDENT—Is it wise to permit this? The clothing of those people who are in the infected area might get contaminated by having been in contact with cattle already infected.

Mr. Ladds—The Captain Superintendent of Police told you you cannot stop the coolies.

The PRESIDENT—But you do not wish to multiply the risk.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I did not say you cannot stop the coolies.

Mr. EDE—How would it do to declare the place an infected area and then for Mr. Ladds to communicate with the manager of the farm stating that, by adopting certain precautions, they could send out the milk until they were stopped?

The PRESIDENT—Personally I do not think it is wise, because by that means you might spread the disease.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I suppose they are distributing this milk at the present moment?

Mr. Ladds—At present they are.

Mr. EDE—The disease can only be spread by contact. It is not a question of the milk.

Mr. Ladds—I do not think the milk conveys the disease.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Is it possible for this milk to be sold as food for calves?

Mr. Ladds—No, I do not think so.

The PRESIDENT—No possibility? Do you know what is done with the milk?

Mr. Ladds—It goes to Wyndham Street.

The PRESIDENT—Anybody can buy it?

Mr. Ladds—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—Therefore anybody—any Chinese dairy—might buy it to feed calves.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I beg to second the resolution.

Mr. EDE—I do not exactly know what to do. I think with proper precautions we might let the milk out.

The PRESIDENT—I should like to know if the Police have been informed of the presence of rinderpest at that farm in accordance with Bye-law 14.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I have received information of it, but not from the owners of the farm.

The PRESIDENT—I think their attention should be drawn to that bye-law, I recommend that they be furnished with a copy of these bye-laws.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—In regard to coolies going in and out of the farm and the possibility of their spreading the disease, would it not be advisable to take the advice of the Crown Solicitor as to whether under by-law 12 "taking such steps to prevent the spread of the disease" would not include prohibiting coolies going in and out?

The PRESIDENT—This should be done.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I think the coolies ought to be kept in.

Mr. EDE—So do I.

Mr. Ladds—I do not think that coolies would spread the disease, but it is possible.

The SECRETARY said he would arrange that matter with the manager of the farm.

The resolution declaring the farm at Sassoon's Villa an infected area was then carried.

The PRESIDENT asked the Secretary to read a letter which had been received from Mr. Ladds this morning.

The SECRETARY read the following letter:—  
Government Offices,

2nd March, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that in accordance with the resolution passed at the special meeting which was held yesterday morning to consider the question of dealing with the outbreak of rinderpest at Pokfulum, and which reads—"That the animals that are now diseased be slaughtered, and that as others at the same place show symptoms of the same disease that they also be slaughtered," the three animals at Sassoon's Villa which were showing symptoms of rinderpest have been destroyed and buried.

I take this opportunity of recording as my opinion that the only present effectual method of dealing with an outbreak of rinderpest in a shed of dairy cattle in the colony is the immediate slaughter and burial of every animal in that shed directly the disease makes its appearance. No half measures should be entertained. Prompt action is necessary.

I think the time is not far distant when the serum treatment of this disease will be generally adopted, but this system needs the use of special apparatus, which at present is not available.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

C. VIVIAN LADDS.

The Secretary,  
Sanitary Board.

The PRESIDENT—Since receiving this letter I have read the Cattle Diseases Act in force in England and there it states "that any animals suspected of being infected with cattle plague, or being or having been in the same shed, herd, or flock, even if they have not the disease, within an infected area shall be slaughtered." After ascertaining this I quite agree with Mr. Ladds that all the cattle within the shed should be slaughtered.

Mr. EDE—But Mr. Ladds said the native cattle were immuned.

Mr. Ladds—I believe they are myself. I think they have had the disease at some previous time.

The PRESIDENT—"Any cattle being or having been in the same shed, herd, or flock." I certainly think that if that is the custom at home it should be carried out here. Have the sixteen been in the same shed?

Mr. Ladds—Some of them.

The PRESIDENT—I think it would be safer if they were all slaughtered.

Mr. EDE—I think it would be better to let the matter rest at the resolution passed at the last meeting, and if another case arises we can adopt that method. There has not been another case and it is possible there will not be another.



Mr. LADDS—I do not think it is necessary to slaughter all of them.

The PRESIDENT—Your letter says—"I take this opportunity of recording as my opinion that the only present effectual method of dealing with an outbreak of rinderpest in a shed of dairy cattle in the colony is the immediate slaughter and burial of every animal in that shed." Also, "No half measures should be entertained."

Mr. LADDS—I said that before, but you would not take my advice then.

The PRESIDENT—Because I had not then had the opportunity of reading the act in force at home. I have had an opportunity of reading the Cattle Diseases Act since then.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—What shed were the cattle in?

Mr. LADDS—They came out of three different sheds, I think.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—How many have died?

Mr. LADDS—I am not sure, but I think twelve died and three were slaughtered.

The PRESIDENT—It would be better for you to report to the Board exactly what has occurred.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—How many cattle were in each shed?

Mr. EDE—Twelve died and three were slaughtered. There remain six sound ones of European breed and sixteen natives—thirty-seven in all.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—They were the whole of the occupants of the three sheds?

Mr. LADDS—I am not sure of the number.

The PRESIDENT—We should know.

Mr. LADDS—I think there were four or five in one shed, six or seven in other, and eighteen in another. I am not quite sure.

The PRESIDENT—They all have practically the same food?

Mr. LADDS—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—Do you think the disease might be spread by the food?

Mr. LADDS—I think it must have come in the straw.

The PRESIDENT—Then the straw must be infected.

Mr. LADDS—They have ceased to use straw now.

The PRESIDENT—I am afraid Mr. Ladds is too sanguine in regard to the serum treatment, as it is only within the last twelve months that Professor Koch attempted at great expense to find a remedy for rinderpest in South Africa, and his experiments, proved as I understand, quite useless. The question is whether the whole of the cattle at Sassoon's Villa be slaughtered or not. I move that they all be slaughtered.

Mr. EDE—I am not in favour of that. I think if any more cattle get sick we should slaughter them, and if the disease spreads we might take that proposal into consideration. At present three cattle have been slaughtered and the rest have shown no signs of the disease. Under those circumstances I think the matter should stand as it is.

The PRESIDENT—Does anybody second my motion?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—It seems to me that Sassoon's Villa is a place that could be isolated and nothing will be removed therefrom. Having done that, I think we might let things rest where they are without slaughtering any more cattle. Even if the rinderpest does spread within those confines I do not see what harm it will do; but if the orders of the Board are carried out I do not see why the disease should spread.

The PRESIDENT—Of course if no one seconds my motion it falls to the ground. The place now being declared an infected area there is no absolute necessity for any more slaughtering of the cattle to take place.

Mr. EDE—The previous resolution stands good. I was trying to save the sixteen native cattle. Unless there is a motion to the effect that the previous resolution is cancelled it will have to stand, of course.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Yes, it does stand.

After some further conversation it was agreed to recommend the Dairy Farm Company to destroy the straw, and the President said that the Government would have to compensate the owners the full market value of the straw, or any other article destroyed during the cleansing and disinfection.

The PRESIDENT—Have due precautions been taken in regard to burial?

Mr. LADDS—Yes, the carcasses were buried six feet deep and quicklime was put on them.

The PRESIDENT—On the farm itself?

Mr. LADDS—Yes, there is no danger. We do not know that there are any germs.

The PRESIDENT—I found some in 1896.

Mr. LADDS—Dr. Koch did not find any.

The PRESIDENT—Never mind, I did. (Laughter.) The bacillus is almost exactly the same as plague bacillus. Dr. Wilm and myself found a bacillus in the spleen and the mesenteric glands, and the only difference is that the rinderpest bacillus was much larger; it stained at either pole in the same manner as Kitaratos' post bacillus. You will find this mentioned in Dr. Wilm's report on the epidemic in 1896.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—If that is so it would appear desirable to bury these animals in a better way.

The PRESIDENT—That is why I asked the question. Last year they were dumped into the sea.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—And some of them came up again.

The PRESIDENT—I am in favour of burning the carcasses.

Mr. EDE—It did not succeed last year.

The PRESIDENT—In India carcasses of horses are frequently burned, and I do not see why it is impossible here.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—The Indian Police are accustomed to burn their own dead, and they would burn the cows for us.

The PRESIDENT—I do not think you would require to have a furnace. You want wood and kerosine.

Mr. EDE—When the last attempt was made the carcasses were only half burnt.

The SECRETARY—They tried to bury the animals, but they could not dig deep enough. Then they tried to burn the carcasses, which were lying there three days before they were taken out to sea.

The PRESIDENT—If it could be done as an experiment it would be a good thing.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—If you can burn a human carcass you can burn a cow's if the fire is big enough.

The PRESIDENT—It is possible that this outbreak is the result of the 1896 disease. The germs may be still in the soil.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I was not here in 1896, but I am told that some yachts were nearly wrecked through running on cows' horns. (Laughter.) I move that an attempt be made to burn the carcasses.

The PRESIDENT—I second that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT—I would add that it be done under the supervision of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

Mr. LADDS—I do not think it is possible to burn the carcasses. If you will show me how to do it I will be very pleased to do it, but I do not think it is possible.

The PRESIDENT—I think the Indian Police, who burn their dead, might be able to assist you.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I will give you all the assistance I can, Mr. Ladds. I have an idea that we can do it.

Mr. LADDS—I think the President's suggestion that they be buried at sea is the best, if they are buried carefully.

The PRESIDENT—I am afraid the resolution is carried now. That is all the business.

### THE RUMOURED SEIZURE OF KWONGCHAU BAY BY THE FRENCH.

For some days past a rumour has been current in the colony that the French had suddenly seized Kwongchau Bay and that French warships were in possession of the place. There was certainly some ground for the rumour, but it turns out that the French have not as yet made any seizure. A few days ago the French fleet appeared in Kwongchau Bay and no doubt the Chinese imagined that the visitors had come to remain. We learn, however, from a most reliable source that the French fleet withdrew from the place on the 23rd inst., so it is probable they were only making one of their mysterious visits to various parts of the China coast.

(CONTRIBUTED).

It has lately been reported that French warships have entered Kwongchau Wan and landed troops there. The report is somewhat premature, the truth probably being that French war-vessels have visited the place and are surveying it with a view to making it one of their bases of operations in their coming campaign in South China.

The above fact being taken for granted a few particulars about Kwongchau Wan will doubtless be of interest to the newspaper reading public. Kwongchau Wan lies in lat. 21 deg. 15 min. N and long. 110 deg. 30 min. E; it is, approximately, about 200 miles W.S.W. from Hongkong. The bay is an excellent one, both for the purpose of a naval harbour and a commercial port, and the French have in selecting this point as a base for their operations exhibited great grasp of what they want and how to take it. The harbour is in some respects similar to Hongkong, being superior to it in some points, but lacking many of the advantages of the British port; still it will be a prize well worth seizing. There are two narrow entrances to the harbour, which is twenty miles long and completely land-locked and has a depth of from 3½ to 10 fathoms with good holding ground. The eastern entrance, which is about 1½ miles wide, has several sand banks outside of it which prevent a direct approach from seaward, but it can easily be approached by a good channel running up along the shore from the south with an average depth of seven fathoms; but at one point the channel is only five and a half fathoms deep. In the entrance itself there is twelve fathoms of water, and on entering the harbour, which is five to six miles across at this point, there is an average depth of nine fathoms. The wide portion of the harbour is about ten miles long, from east to west, and about six or seven miles wide, from north to south, thus affording a safe anchorage for an immense fleet of ships of the heaviest draft. In addition to the wider portion of the harbour there is a narrower arm, averaging from 1½ to 2 miles in width, and about fifteen miles long, leading from the main harbour to the eastern exit or entrance. The depth of water in this narrow arm of the harbour averages from 3½ to 4 fathoms. The tide runs very strong in the entrances of the harbour and through the narrower arm, as might be expected considering the immense basin which has to be filled and emptied with each rise and fall, and the narrow space through which the water has to flow.

A river of some size discharges into Kwongchau Bay and on this river is situated the town of Cheikhome, a trading centre of considerable importance, carrying on a large trade with Macao and Kongmoon, on the West River. The imports into Cheikhome are principally cotton yarn, piece goods, and opium, but all the other staple articles of trade in China go there in considerable quantities. The principal exports are groundnut oil and matting. The matting is that used so largely in South China for matting packages and for making mat bags and mat sails.

Apart from its commercial value the possession of Kwongchau Bay will carry with it the control of Lnichow, Lienchow, and Koehow Prefectures, which, with the island of Hainan (or Kiungchow Prefecture), will now undoubtedly be incorporated with the French possessions in Tonkin.

A comparatively low range of hills, some distance inland, is all that will separate the French possessions from the valley of the West River during the greater part of its course.

The trade of this part will probably quadruple itself within five years after the French occupation, notwithstanding their differential tariffs, for the burden of those special tariffs will be as nothing compared to the burden placed on trade by piracy and Chinese officialdom at the present time.

Hongkong will not fail to profit by these changes and might well congratulate itself upon the addition to the trade of the port (for the trade will be with Hongkong direct), were it not for the restlessness and territorial insatiability of our French neighbours, as they will only be content with that extension for a few years at most and then be wanting to absorb the West River valley, a step which



Britain cannot allow unless she is going to renounce all intention of preserving the Yangtze Valley intact to China.

Probably coal will be found in the neighbourhood of Kwongchau Bay, as the geological formation in the locality is of carboniferous age.

28th February.

### THE CAUSE OF BRIGANDAGE IN SOUTH CHINA AND WHY IT IS NOT SUPPRESSED.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

That brigandage has always been more or less prevalent in South China is well known to all old residents in the Far East and it is a well recognized fact that it has of late years become of more general occurrence till, since the last war with Japan, the traveller is not safe on the most frequented highways, either on land or water, and there is not a village or town whose inhabitants are entirely free from the dread of being aroused in the dead of night to pay toll to these freebooters. It has been said that the peaceable inhabitants know that any night they may be aroused to pay toll to the armed gang of robbers who have surrounded the house or village and whose only right to demand all the valuables at hand is the power to enforce that demand; but so free are these piratical bands to levy blackmail that they often disdain to await till night hides their preparations to attack their victims and conceal their retreat, preferring the broad daylight for executing their raid.

One would have thought that in the southern capital, Canton, the peaceful citizen would have felt secure from such attacks, knowing that there were located the chief forces of the Government of the southern provinces, backed up by a Tartar garrison of ten thousand men, not to mention other troops stationed within easy call. Yet what are the facts? Why, ignoring these powers and the impotent controllers of them the pirate bands fearlessly, from time to time, not only levy black-mail on the wealthy merchants and rob the pawn-shops, where lies the accumulated wealth of the populace, but they do not hesitate, also, to even demand, and obtain, large sums from some of the officials themselves and rob the houses adjoining the yamens. What greater proof could there be that the control of these portions of the empire is slipping out of the grasp of the present feeble and expiring Manchu dynasty.

Surely it is time for the European Powers to step in and agree amongst themselves as to the respective spheres in the outlying provinces of China which they will undertake to administer, before it is too late and another greater Taiping Rebellion throws the country into a state of chaos and paralyzes all trade, both native and foreign. Britain least of all can afford to allow the present state of disorder to grow and develop into civil war on an extensive scale, and she can hardly be foolhardy enough to again undertake to set the thankless, corrupt, effete, and failing Tsing dynasty on its legs once more for another course of thirty years of duplicity in making and keeping of treaties.

Although brigandage is rife even in Canton, the southern capital, itself, it is on the outlying fringes of the empire, viz., Hainan, Southern and Western Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, that the pirate hordes are waxing boldest, and it is this unchecked brigandage which is causing restiveness on the part of France which will shortly culminate in her invading and annexing those territories.

The causes of this brigandage are, the failing grasp of the alien officials (alien in that they are natives of provinces other than that over which they rule) on the country; failure to pay the troops and the disbanding of them without pay and provision of passage to their homes, so that they have only one way of existing, i.e., to help themselves to what they need, or what they desire; the impoverishment of the country by the extortions of the officials and the barriers they raise to the free course of trade, further aggravated by the withdrawal of capital from circulation and hoarding of same under the sense of the impending state of anarchy; the incitation of piracy by the border officials to avert demands from disbanded soldiery for pay due and to, as they hope, prevent the establishment of European rule over the adjoining frontiers; the arming of pirate bands

by the officials in the last war with France, and since that war also, and failure to call in the arms again; the large importation of arms by secret societies during the past two or three years with intent to raise a rebellion; and the further import of arms by more peaceful persons for use in self-defence. These reasons, and possibly other reasons not known to the writer, are those which have resulted in the growth and extension of brigandage until it has become universal over an extent of country half the size of Europe and only needs the appearance of a strong, desperate, and able man to weld all the scattered bands into one and raise the standard of rebellion in earnest and carry it over the hills into the Yangtze Valley. The foregoing is an outline of the state of things in South China. In the North a similar state of affairs exists; even in Manchuria, the home of the Tsing dynasty.

### THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMEMORATION SCHEMES.

#### IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Hongkong Jubilee Committee was held at the Council Chamber on Monday afternoon, 28th Feb., at 4.30. The Hon. C. P. Chater (Chairman of the Committee) presided, and there were also present—Messrs. T. Jackson, A. P. McEwen, W. Chatham, J. J. Francis, Q. C., W. Danby, D. R. Crawford, Hons. F. H. May, E. R. Belilios, J. J. Bell Irving, Wei A. Yuk, Ho Kai, and J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Hon. Secretary).

After the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th April had been read, the CHAIRMAN said that before proceeding with the business to be brought before the Committee he would like to have an expression of opinion from the Committee as to whether it was the original intention of the Committee that the Hospital for Women and Children and the Nursing Institute should consist of two buildings, or whether it was the intention of the Committee that there should be only one building to meet both purposes, as the resolution proposed by Mr. Whitehead at the last meeting seemed somewhat vague on the point.

Mr. FRANCIS said he was of opinion that the original intention of the Committee was that there should be two buildings.

The Hon. SECRETARY (Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart) concurred in this view, as did all the other members with the exception of Mr. Belilios.

The CHAIRMAN then explained that the meeting had been originally summoned for the purpose of selecting plans for the Hospital for Women and Children and the Nursing Institute. Competition had been invited and three plans were received, one from Messrs. Palmer and Turner, one from Messrs. Denison and Ram, and one from Mr. B. Brotherton Harker; but since the notice was sent out summoning the meeting the following letter had been received from Dr. Atkinson:—

Government Civil Hospital,  
Hongkong, 26th February, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to suggest to the Government the advisability of its securing the residence known as "Cragieburn" as an annexe to the Government Civil Hospital.

As the result of over ten years' experience in the Medical Department of this colony, I am convinced of the great benefit derived, especially with convalescents, more particularly during the hot season, by a short stay at the Peak.

Undoubtedly an institution of this sort, at the higher levels, under the administration of the Medical Department, would prove a great boon not only to the Government officials temporarily incapacitated by illness, but also to the members of the community who avail themselves of the opportunities afforded at present at the Government Civil Hospital.

It is not necessary for me to dilate upon the advantages to be derived, especially by the sick, from a change to the climate of the Peak; this is known to all who have resided for any length of time in the colony.

Another most important advantage would accrue to the colony by this procedure, viz., the fact that the nursing and medical staff of the Hospital would be able to recuperate in health when living and working at such an institution.

Enclosed is a list showing the sickness amongst the members of the nursing and medical staff during the years 1892 to 1895. From this it is evident how trying hospital work is on the lower levels.

A transference of their sphere of action to the Peak, whilst benefiting those who are nursed by the sisters, would undoubtedly assist in increasing their efficiency by a better maintenance of health.

This applies similarly to the medical staff of the Department.

There is at present a private hospital at the Peak, but its sphere of usefulness is necessarily limited, and as in the main it is a commercial undertaking the benefits to be derived from an annexe such as this to the Medical Department of the colony must be evident to all who seriously consider the matter.

I would point out that if the suggestion I have made is approved of it will not in my opinion be necessary to proceed with the new Women's Hospital. In this way the original idea of the promoters of a Women's Hospital will be more literally carried out. With a few alterations "Cragieburn" could be made available for women and children in addition to being an annexe to the Government Civil Hospital. Another important advantage would accrue in the fact that the present hospital premises will not be further crowded upon.

I request that the whole question be referred to the Jubilee Committee.

With regard to the financial aspect of the question, I am given to understand that it may be possible to purchase "Cragieburn" alone; by that I mean the building without the whole of the grounds.

I understand that there is the fear that Chinese patients may object to being treated in a hospital at the Peak. This prejudice in my opinion would soon disappear, and it must be remembered that it is principally for European women and children that greater accommodation is required.—I have the honour to be sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. ATKINSON.

Principal Civil Medical Officer.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart,  
Colonial Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN stated that in view of this letter he would be glad to know what course the Committee advised should now be adopted.

Hon. F. H. MAY moved that the question of the selection of the plans be postponed with a view to a further consideration of Dr. Atkinson's letter.

Mr. DANBY seconded the motion, which was carried.

It was then resolved, in view of Cragieburn being offered for sale on the 1st March, to authorize the Chairman to try and arrange with the owners to postpone the sale until such time as the Jubilee Committee had given some definite decision on the proposal made by Dr. Atkinson.

The CHAIRMAN then read the following report on the progress of surveys, &c., in connection with the Victoria Jubilee Road. The report was prepared by Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works, who was present at the meeting by request:—

Mr. T. G. Hughes, of the Royal Engineer Staff, was engaged by Government and attached to the Public Works Department in November for special work, namely, the tracing and surveying of the proposed carriage road round the Island.

Mr. Hughes commenced work on the 18th November, and has been continuously employed at it ever since.

His work consists in surveying and levelling over the existing road and (where the gradients are found to be too steep for the new road) seeking a suitable line, with no steeper gradient than 1 in 18.

I had hoped to make 1 in 20 the maximum grade, but found the configuration of the country made this very difficult except by unduly increasing the length of the road and the expense of construction. I have therefore allowed short lengths of 1 in 18, which is a fairly good gradient for a carriage road.

The first mile of the present road was found to be much too steep, and considerable difficulty was experienced, and the running of several trial lines necessary, before getting a satisfactory trace to the first gap.



The third and fourth mile also presented several difficulties.

I have been personally over the whole trace on foot, parts of it two or three times.

Mr. Hughes sends in a weekly report of his progress.

In addition to the traverse and longitudinal section of the trace he has to take at least 52 cross sections in every mile, to enable the calculation of earth and rock to be made and has also to make enlarged plans of all large stream crossings.

In his report of Feb. 12th, he had completed the survey of the fifth mile.

I have just received the report, dated Feb. 26th, reporting the completion of the sixth mile, and the compass survey and levels for section of seventh mile, which is beyond Stanley.

He informs me that he hopes to finish the eighth mile by the end of next week, which will bring the trace to the Gap beyond Stanley above Repulse Bay.

I expect he will easily get to Aberdeen in March; and possibly the whole trace round Mount Davis to Kennedy Town may be completed in April.

A rough, but passable foot-path, is being cut along the trace as I inspect and pass it as approved.

The calculation of the quantities of work and the preparation of the estimate will occupy two or three weeks.

When the plans and estimate are complete, the construction of the road may be divided into three or more sections as may seem desirable, tenders invited, and if satisfactory contractors can be found, work commenced at both ends, and one or more points between the termini.

R. D. ORMSBY.

This report having been read, a question was asked how wide it was intended that the proposed road should be.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied that it was intended to make a cut of 18 feet in the solid and that would make the road surface at least 20 feet.

A question was also asked whether it was intended to commence the road at both ends.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied that when the survey was completed it was hoped to be able to commence at either end.

The CHAIRMAN then laid upon the table the following account.—

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH	
T. JACKSON, HON. TREASURER.	
To steam launch procession on Jubilee night ..	\$3,041.35
To celebration at Happy Valley on Jubilee day ..	3,009.17
To illuminations and fireworks ..	2,132.41
To Flower show ..	2,091.54
To curio show ..	311.62
To entertainment of H.M. sailors and soldiers and Hongkong police on Jubilee day ..	1,693.00
To entertainment of inmates of charitable institutions on Jubilee day ..	426.00
To expenses in connection with laying the foundation stone of the Jubilee Hospital and Road ..	351.69
To expenses of Jubilee Gymkhana ..	629.33
To advertising and printing ..	595.93
To bands ..	200.00
To gratuities ..	280.00
To stationery and postage ..	31.91
To address to Her Majesty the Queen ..	293.00
To Chinese addresses to H.E. the Governor and Colonial Secretary ..	267.10
To sundries ..	6.51
To balance ..	184,381.38

\$199,741.94

By amount of foreign subscriptions per lists ..	\$58,625.34
By amount of Chinese subscriptions per lists ..	40,266.44
By received from Hongkong Government ..	98,892.28
By interest from Bank ..	1,957.38

\$199,741.94

### DEATH OF THE TAI-WO -KUN.

Telegraphic news was received at Shanghai on the 26th February from Seoul of the death of the truculent and grimly humorous old conspirator, the Tai-won-kun, the father of the present Emperor of Korea, only a little while after the death of his wife. His death will distinctly diminish the interest of the news from the peninsula; for he was never long at rest, and might always be relied on to provide some new sensation, alone or in company with anyone whom he could induce to join him in a coup d'état of some kind.

### THE SECRET OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

#### AN INTERESTING ADDRESS.

The great secret of the British Empire was divulged in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall on Saturday afternoon 26th Feb., to the members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society by Mr. W. V. Drummond, who told them in a most entertaining manner what had led to the establishment of the British Empire and what will always continue to keep it intact. There was a very large, influential, and most interested audience.

His Excellency the Acting Governor, Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., presided and in calling upon the lecturer jocularly remarked that he hoped Mr. Drummond would not let the secret of our success be too broadly known, because we did not want to give the other keen competitors too much of a "tip."

Mr. Drummond, who was received with hearty applause, prefaced his lecture with a few words of a personal nature. Perhaps they thought he was rather audacious to consent to talk to them, but he asked them to remember that he was a resident of Hongkong upwards of a quarter of a century ago, and he had frequently come down from Shanghai since; so that he ought to be put in a somewhat different character from that of a mere casual visitor. He then told them a little story from which he asked them to extract the moral. A young lady undertook to give a lecture, but as she had been guilty of nothing like that before she asked a professor who visited her at her father's house to give her an idea of how to carry out her undertaking. She asked if it would be better to write the lecture and read it, or learn it by heart, or what. "There is just one thing to do," replied the professor. "Go to your room and saturate yourself through and through with your subject, forget everything else, and you are bound to succeed." The young lady looked up with horror at the professor and exclaimed, "But my subject is Drink!" The moral was the word "saturate." The lecturer's mind was saturated with his subject, and he had given much attention to it. The questions regarding the British Empire were grouped into two classes—(1). How the British Empire was won and (2). How it is kept. He had to deal with the second branch of the subject, but he would first of all like to recommend them to read a book entitled, "Deeds that won the Empire," by the Rev. W. H. Pritchett, a clergyman in Australia. He had never read the deeds that won the Empire put into such magnificent language. One could not read any single page without a lump rising in his throat and a moist feeling about the eyes of which no-one would be ashamed. Passing to the subject of his lecture—the way in which the Empire is kept—Mr. Drummond remarked that it was an old saying that it was easier to make money than to keep it. With the Empire it was the same. The quality that had served in the world's history to build up an Empire had often failed to keep that Empire together; but that was where the great Empire of Britain shone conspicuously amongst the Empires that had preceded it; it was the cementing quality that kept it together, that maintained it intact, and made it the great power it is to-day. The name of that quality—the secret—was a very peculiar one and a very important one, and one that perhaps they did not know of before. He asked them two questions: Could they name in their own minds any great principle or quality which had worked round on every side, in every part of the British Empire, and which was peculiarly characteristic of the British Empire—a quality which was exercised every day by the British Empire more conspicuously than any other? Did they know of any Institution existing to-day in the British Empire which was carrying that principle into actual daily work, which was exercising a great influence on the lives and fortunes of the British people all over the globe? The principle was Justice; the Institution was what was known by lawyers as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London. There was the secret. Consider those two things—Justice, and Justice administered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Justice which was carried all over the whole world, not only in British possessions, but in other countries besides where

British law was administered, was the quality which had stood the test of the keenest criticism and was to-day the brightest jewel in the Crown of Britain. (Applause) That quality was of the highest importance. Did they think that to-day the British nation could hold the teeming population of India, which was counted by hundreds of millions, if it were not for the innate feeling of confidence and justice in the British nation that exists throughout the country? (Applause.) Where the English flag flies, where the English rule goes, there went with it a body of administrators of British law, which was tempered and adapted to the wants and feelings of the various races, and it was that which had such an extraordinary success all over the world. (Applause.) That that law was practicable was proved by the simple fact that it enabled us to hold India—putting aside all other of our possessions—with the minimum of force, and we certainly could not do so if the races of the land had no confidence in our justice and in our impartiality. (Applause.) Speaking of the mighty and vast importance of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Mr. Drummond pointed out the confidence engendered by that body. For example, a litigant took his case from Calcutta, or Bombay, or Madras to the Privy Council. That meant that the man who was appealing to the Privy Council was born of an Indian race and had probably never been out of India in his life. He had seen Englishmen working in his country, and that was all. He sent his case to England thousands of miles off and he left it to be managed there by English lawyers at great expense. The case was taken before half a dozen elderly gentlemen sitting in a dingy room in London, and it was confided to their care with the utmost confidence that what was done would be honest and true. When he used the word "Justice" he included in it everything we knew of freedom. Justice was a higher thing and a greater word than freedom itself. Justice comprised everything that was comprised in the word freedom, and something more. Justice, viewed in that sense, might fairly be called the great antiseptic of British rule. British rule necessarily wounded some people, but the wounds were no sooner made than they were healed. We could not possibly govern without doing some injury to others. We brought the *Pax Britannica* and we insisted upon peace, and that fact alone was an injury to some people. Not to have a war was a grievance amongst some races. That was of course an extreme case, but there were many other cases in which we were obliged to tread on their feelings. We had to enforce sanitary laws and other laws which were absolutely necessary to carry civilization into the land. We endeavoured to be strictly just between man and man and to give each race equal chance with one another. (Applause.) He heard the other day a conversation between an Englishman and a citizen of another nationality. The citizen of another nationality said, "You Britishers seem to try to act on the principle, 'Do unto others as you would they should do to you?' Well, that is too long for us. We cut it short, as we do most things. We say 'Do others as you would expect them to do you.'" (Laughter.) There they had the two sides of the question in a nut-shell. Each country chooses which of these principles it likes. He did not pretend to say that the British rule was perfect; the tendency was to improve it and make things better and better; but they could stand before a higher test than had ever been demanded by any race in the world. (Applause.) Passing to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and its special work Mr. Drummond remarked that it furnished one of the most striking thoughts, which he asked them to consider in the secret he undertook to disclose to them. The work of the Privy Council was extraordinary. Let then take a sketch map of the world without any colour upon it and just make red every bit of the earth's surface which was governed by and subject to the jurisdiction of the Privy Council in London, and the result would be astounding to them. It was the most unique thing in history from the earliest time the world's history had been recorded up to the present moment, and there was nothing in the world to approach it. To that little room in London, where sat the six elderly gentle-



men, every British subject who had a case in which important issues were involved could take his case. That was a most striking thought and one which perhaps had not crossed their minds before. What made the government of the British Empire so extraordinary was the quiet working of the machinery of the Privy Council. It had not been made a subject for poetry and very little prose, that prose being hard, dry legal reports. But had they tried to extract a great thought that lay in it—the thought that that Court exercised direct jurisdiction over such a mass of human beings? It was a practical, serious factor in the government of the British Empire and it affected the expense, the actual working, and the life of the British Empire. Bearing these things in mind and the fact that if a search was made throughout literature the Privy Council was not described in any way, was he not justified in saying that it was a secret? He hoped this unfilled column of literature would soon be filled. The subject was as fine as any writer could wish to have in this world, and yet it was practically untouched. Therefore he was led to say that in the history of the Empire there was something in the nature of an unknown secret. He hoped he had given them some slight food for thought. The history of the Privy Council did not consist of a mere dry record of somebody fighting somebody else, but it contained the germ of a very great thought, the germ of a great principle which was going on all over the world and enabled us to govern the world at an enormous cost, not only with the approval of the citizens of the Empire but with the admiration and respect of all those who were not subject to the British nation at all. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Granville Sharp, in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Drummond, said he knew the answer to the first question was "Justice," but he hoped he would be forgiven for not having "spotted" the Privy Council.

Colonel Eldsdale said he had saturated himself with the weakness of the British Empire, and he would like to hear Mr. Drummond or some other capable gentleman deliver a lecture on the weakness of the Empire, because it was a most excellent thing that we should from time to time endeavour to see ourselves as others see us. (Applause.) If no-one came forward he would be most happy to give a lecture himself. (Applause.)

Mr. Francis thought the greatness of the Empire was coupled with some degree of weakness, and there were weak points in the legal administration of the Empire. It was absolutely essential that some endeavour should be made to more thoroughly, more completely, more perfectly organise the administration of justice throughout the Empire. He complained that three-fourths of the laws which were being administered to the Chinese had not been translated and were consequently not known to them. There were also defects in the Privy Council itself, some of which had lately been remedied by admitting colonial judges to their body.

Mr. Robinson said he guessed "Justice" as one answer. The Privy Council was an instrument of Justice, and the second answer he wrote down was "Liberty." Mr. Drummond had included freedom in Justice, but he (Mr. Robinson) would put it the other way about. A free man demands Justice. A great despot may give justice, but a free man demands it. Justice may give respect; Liberty gave contentment. He advocated free Parliaments and a free Judiciary, and maintained that the vivifying principle which gave hope to the British Empire was the principle of Liberty. If the world came against us we should see the strength of our Empire—a Volunteer Empire, an Empire not held by force, but by Liberty, and Liberty meant force. (Applause.)

His Excellency the Chairman also made a characteristic speech and the vote of thanks to Mr. Drummond was enthusiastically carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the extremely interesting proceedings, which were rendered all the more enjoyable because all the speakers, including Mr. Drummond, spoke extempore.

### THE LAUNCH COLLISION AT KOWLOON.

On 25th Feb. Hon. R. Murray Rumsey (Harbour Master) held an inquiry at the Harbour Office into the circumstances connected with the collision between the steam launches *Dakin* and *Heron*.

E. W. Langley, assistant in *Dakin* and Co., Victoria Dispensary, said—I was on board the *Dakin* about 4.30 p.m. on the 22nd inst. We were leaving No. 4 Wharf at the Kowloon Wharves and we went out ahead from the wharf. As we got opposite No. 2 wharf a Star ferry launch, the *Rising Star*, was turning between the wharves to pass under our stern bound for Hongkong, while the *Guiding Star* was on our port bow about a hundred yards off. At about the same time the *Heron* was on our starboard bow about a hundred yards off. All the boats were running at their usual speed. My coxswain blew two whistles and went towards the *Guiding Star*. We were passing port to port with the *Guiding Star* when the *Heron* was coming in on us on our starboard bow, and I saw the coxswain putting his helm to port. If he had kept his course he would have cleared us. As it was, he came right into us without slowing or stopping and struck us about amidships and cut into us. Water was coming in and the *Guiding Star* took us in tow to the wharf and we lashed the *Dakin* and so prevented her from sinking.

Wong Yung, master of the *Heron*, said—I was coming from Carlowitz and Co's steamer and going to the ferry wharf. The *Dakin* was coming round from No. 1 wharf and the *Guiding Star* was coming from Hongkong. The *Dakin* was on my port bow and the *Guiding Star* on my starboard bow. I blew my whistle to the *Dakin*, and she answered and I went astern. The *Dakin* came up and I ran into her. The *Guiding Star* was close to me when I struck the *Dakin*. I did not give way to the *Guiding Star* because we were both going to the wharf and we would have been clear of each other.

Cheung Lo, the master of the *Dakin*, said—When I got to No. 2 wharf I blew two whistles to the *Heron* because I wished to keep to port and not give way to the *Heron*. When we were near to each other the *Heron* was coming on my starboard side. She blew a whistle. The *Guiding Star* came up on my port side and we were passing port to port. The *Heron* did not slow nor go astern and she ran into me. I blew my whistle four times. The *Guiding Star* took us in tow. We were sinking.

The coxswain of the *Heron* said—I saw there would be a collision because the *Dakin* did not give way and I could not go to port because of the *Rising Star*, which was coming round the stern of the *Dakin*.

The following was the finding of the Court:—*Dakin* solely to blame for not giving way to launch on her starboard side, instead of which he blew two whistles and thinks this absolves him from observing the rules of the road. Certificate suspended for two months.

### THE HONGKONG MUSICAL EXAMINATION.

The results of the examinations held in November and December last by the London College of Music have just been announced. The candidates in pianoforte playing were examined by Messrs. A. G. Ward and G. Grimble. The theory papers were examined by Dr. W. H. Sangster and Dr. Karn. The following is the list of successful candidates:—

#### PIANOFORTE PLAYING.

##### Senior Section:—

Ruby Ley Kum ... Honours (W)

##### Intermediate:—

M. Duncan ... 1st class (G)  
Serene Mehta ... " (G)  
Alfred Humphreys ... pass (D)  
M. A. Hyndman ... " (D)  
M. Carroll ... " (IC)  
Frank Crawford ... " (C)  
A. A. Wilson ... " (C)  
M. F. Rodger ... " (G)  
J. C. Henderson ... " (G)

##### Elementary:—

A. Parlane ... 1st class (G.)  
A. M. Parker ... " (H.)

Aida Alves ... " (I.C.)  
A. Lee ... " (I.C.)  
W. J. Clerihew ... " (D.S.O.)  
Madeleine Quincey ... pass (D.)  
Mary Quincey ... " (D.)  
E. M. E. King ... " (H.)  
Emily Jorge ... " (I.C.)

#### THEORY.

##### Associate in Music:—

Emil Danenberg ... pass (B.)

##### Junior Honours:—

E. S. Ford ... 1st class (D.S.O.)  
Frank Crawford ... " (C.)  
Ruby Ley Kum ... " (W.)  
Alfred Humphreys ... pass (D.)

##### Junior Pass:—

A. A. Wilson ... 1st class (C.)  
M. Rocha ... pass (D.)  
Madeleine Quincey ... " (D.)  
W. J. Clerihew ... " (D.S.O.)

##### Elementary:—

Mary Quincey ... 1st class (D.)  
F. W. Shaw ... pass (D.S.O.)

The teacher or schools to which the candidates belong are denoted by letters placed after the names, thus:—

Mr. W. G. Bentley ... (B.)  
Miss Crawford ... (C.)  
Mr. E. Danenberg ... (D.)  
Diocesan School ... (D.S.O.)  
Mrs. Grimble ... (G.)  
Hatherley ... (H.)  
Italian Convent ... (I.C.)  
Mr. A. G. Ward ... (W.)

The Bellios medals are gained by Ruby Ley Kum and Frank Crawford. Miss Ley Kum, it should be mentioned, was examined in piano playing by Mr. Grimble only, Mr. Ward, as her instructor, withdrawing.

### THE FIRE BRIGADE REPORT.

The following report of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1897 is published in the *Gazette*:—

Police Office,

Hongkong, 31st Jan., 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the following report on the Government Fire Brigade for the year 1897.

2.—There were 26 fires, two of which occurred on vessels in the harbour, and 58 incipient fires during the past year. Details regarding each will be found attached. The Brigade turned out 40 times during the year.

The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$177,150.00 and by the incipient fires \$334.50.

A list is attached showing the number of fires that have occurred during each of the last ten years with the estimated value of property destroyed in each case.

3.—There were three prosecutions for arson. In two cases the intention was to defraud and in these the prosecutions were successful. The first was in connection with the fire at No. 99, Jervois Street in which three occupants of the first floor, which had no connection with the shop on the ground floor where the fire originated, were smothered by smoke before they could be rescued.

Among the debris on the ground floor were found unmistakeable evidence of incendiarism, and the master of the shop was convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The second case was in connection with the incipient fire which occurred at No. 231, Queen's Road Central on the 21st of May.

The Chinese constable on the beat noticed smoke issuing from the house, and forcing an entrance found the cubicle, used by the accountant of the shop on the ground floor, on fire in four different places. With commendable courage and presence of mind he beat out the flames with an old curtain.

The accountant was convicted and sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

These convictions seem to have had a beneficial effect, for the estimated value of property destroyed by the 14 fires that occurred up to the 21st of May amounted to \$115,950, while the estimated value of property destroyed by the 12 fires occurring after that date amounted to \$61,200, including the fire of the 15th June which took place before the second conviction.

4.—The latter fire was the most destructive that occurred during the year. Three houses



were partly destroyed, and the value of the damage done was estimated at \$34,000.

The spread of the fire to the adjoining houses in this case was entirely due to the large and stoutly constructed sunshades existing in Jervois Street, the removal of which had to be effected before the Brigade could work with their ladders. The delay that was thus caused was considerable, and was undoubtedly the cause of the fire spreading.

Since then the shop-keepers in Jervois Street have been induced by Mr. Chatham, when Acting Director of Public Works, to make their sunshades moveable so as to avoid such obstruction in future.

5.—At the fire in No. 64, Third Street on the 24th of November, 15 persons unfortunately lost their lives. They were occupants of the first floor. The fire originated under the only staircase leading to the floor, and the wood-work being light (as in most Chinese houses) it immediately burned so fiercely that no person could venture down the stairs.

The occupants retreated to the kitchen, and before assistance could arrive the whole floor was in flames and they were suffocated.

The houses on each side of that burned had ladders leading from the kitchen to the roof, but unfortunately such was not the case in house No. 64.

6.—The water in the mains was not turned off at any time during the year.

7.—The new floating fire engine (the engines and appliances of which are by Messrs. Shand and Mason) was completed and available for service in February last, and has given satisfaction.

8.—I attach a list of places where fire despatch boxes are kept, and of private telephones to which the police have courteously been granted access in case of fire, together with copy of a report from the Acting Engineer on the state of the various fire engines, which are all in good working order.

9.—It has not been found possible yet to carry out the extension of the Central Fire Station that I recommended last year. Till that is done it is impossible to effect any material improvement in rapidity in dealing with fires from the Central Fire Station.

10.—By an acceleration in sounding the alarms, a gain of two minutes has been effected in the turn-out of the firemen at the Central Police Station.

Electric alarms have now been fixed at East and West Point Police Stations, the Central Fire Station, and Central Police Station, from which further improvement in the rapidity of communicating alarms is expected.

11.—On the 11th of May the Nam Pak Hong Fire Brigade was by the consent of the Committee, placed under the supervision of two European engine drivers, who take charge of this auxiliary Brigade at fires. The result has been satisfactory, and further improvement may be looked for.

12.—The conduct of the Brigade throughout the year has been good.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,

Superintendent of Fire Brigade.  
The Honourable, the Colonial Secretary.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STORES.

The following report has been laid before the Legislative Council:—

Public Works Office,  
Hongkong, 5th January, 1898.

Sir.—The necessity for proper store accommodation for the use of the Public Works Department, in some fairly central site, has been more than once brought to the attention of Government, but as nothing has been done yet to meet this undoubted want, it seems scarcely necessary to refer to previous files, and I have the honour now to bring the matter to your notice hoping that it may be possible to bring it to a definite issue.

2.—The question was dealt with by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to report on the condition of Public Offices, from which subject, however, I think it should now be disassociated as it really stands on a quite different footing.

3.—Paragraph 14 of the report of that Committee describes the present accommodation used by the Department, which I here again enumerate.

The Public Works Department Stores are now located in three separate buildings, viz., Crosby Store, No. 3A, Blue Buildings, and at Wanchai Store on Government land reclaimed from the foreshore, in addition to which a small store is maintained at No. 2 Tank in connection with the workshop there, and some goods are also stored opposite the Sailors' Home.

4.—Crosby Store occupies an area of 4,131 square feet and the old Education Offices (forming part of the same building but now unsafe and unoccupied) an area of 6,947 square feet, a total of 11,078 square feet of most valuable land in the heart of the city.

These buildings are in such a dilapidated condition as to be positively unsafe, rendering their use as stores very limited, and should they collapse, likely to lead to considerable loss of the property stored there. I estimate that less than one-third of the space is capable of being used.

The site is probably as valuable as any in the City, and I have little doubt would sell now for over \$12 a square foot, and thus bring in \$133,000 to Government.

5.—The store in Blue Buildings is rented by Government from the Land Investment Company at an annual rental of \$949.20 including taxes.

6.—The store at Wanchai on the Reclamation in front of Marine Lots 117 and 118 Praya East, though very small, is undoubtedly the most conveniently situated store we possess, and on this site I would recommend the erection of a suitable permanent building to contain all our stores, and a small residence for a storekeeper with accommodation for our workshops.

7.—The present staff employed in connection with our Store Department are as follows:—

Head storekeeper, .....	\$60.00 per mensem
Clerk, .....	10.00 "
Four store coolies, ...	33.00 "
One watchman, .....	7.00 "
Six Do., .....	36.00 "
One Indian constable, ..	13.50 "
	\$159.50

or \$1,914.00 per annum.

With all our stores concentrated in one place I would consider the following staff ample:—

Head storekeeper (to do clerk's work also), .....	\$70.00
Two store coolies \$10 and \$7, ...	17.00
Two watchmen \$7, ...	14.00
	101.00

or \$1,212.00 per annum.

8.—The store at Wanchai is in a convenient position as regards our work; it is within a mile of the office, has water carriage up to the entrance, and on a portion of the site the workshops and small connected store now on No. 2 Tank near Taipingshan can be transferred.

9.—I have gone over the existing stores and noted the space now occupied, and what our maximum requirements in that respect are likely to be, and have come to the conclusion that a building 110 feet by 35 feet with 2 floors will be sufficient. There should be also an open shed for nonperishable articles which should, however, be under cover, and a residence for the storekeeper; and I estimate the total cost will not exceed \$18,191.00 as per enclosed particulars.

The saving to Government by carrying out this proposal would be as follows:—

Annual cost of present staff .....	\$1,914.00
Rent paid for Blue Buildings .....	949.23
	\$2,863.20
Deduct cost of proposed new staff .....	1,212.00

Saving .....

\$1,651.20  
which capitalized may be taken to represent about \$33,000.00.

11.—I do not refer to the large sum that is certain to be realized by the sale of Crosby Store and adjoining premises, as I have in another paper proposed devoting the money so realized to the construction of new Public Offices, nor do I refer to the fact that it was at one time proposed to reserve a most valuable site on the new Reclamation opposite the Sailors' Home for Public Works Department Stores, as my proposal seems on its own merits to be so

evidently advantageous and a saving to Government as to warrant its early sanction.

12.—In conclusion, I submit for the approval of His Excellency the Governor that I be authorized to lay this proposal before the Public Works Committee, and, if it meets with approval, proceed at once with the work, the necessary funds being provided by a special supplementary vote.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. D. ORMSBY,

Director of Public Works.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

### HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held on the 28th February in the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided and there were also present—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. A. J. Raymond, J. H. Lewis, A. Ross, F. Maitland, (Consulting Committee), G. T. Veitch (Secretary), J. H. Cox, G. C. Anderson, Henry Humphreys, Ho Tung, A. Fleet, F. A. Gomes, K. McK. Ross, T. Arnold, Victor H. Deacon, W. Parlange, J. R. Michael, R. C. Wilcox, Ho Fook, B. Byramjee, D. D. O'Keefe, A. G. Morris, Lo Cheung Shiu, J. M. G. Pereira, K. A. Chingy, and J. M. S. Alves.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I presume you will acquiesce in the report and accounts being taken as read. At our last annual meeting, it was with much pleasure I congratulated shareholders on the satisfactory statement of accounts then presented. To-day, it is with a feeling of equal pleasure I am enabled to come before you with what is a more satisfactory account; in fact, it is the best presented by the Company for several years past. It enables us to propose the payment of a bonus to contributing shareholders, an increase of \$1.50 per share, that is to say \$26.50 as against \$22 last year, and also the strengthening of our reserve fund adding thereto the maximum amount allowable under our Articles of Association. Now, as regards the position of the 1897 account. As you are all doubtless aware last year was marked by the occurrence of severe conflagrations, and we, like all other offices, have had to bear our proportion of heavier losses than usual, in consequence of which the balance at credit of the account is somewhat less than for 1896. You will observe the net premium income shows an appreciable increase. Our losses, unfortunately are considerably greater, being \$62,618, against \$31,588 in 1896. Since the account was made up, I regret having to state the occurrence of further losses to the extent of \$33,000, the larger portion of which was incurred in Manila, where a most disastrous fire recently occurred. Some short time ago, we fortunately reduced our risks in the particular locality of the Manila fire, otherwise our loss would have been much heavier. The various tariffs I referred to at our last meeting continue to work satisfactorily, although in Yokohama dissatisfaction at the rates there established has taken the shape of a proposal to start a new Fire Insurance Company. Our experience of fire underwriting in Japan, especially of late years, has not been satisfactory. Keen competition brought rates down to a point at which it was impossible to work at a profit, and to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs the various offices combined for the purpose of forming an equitable tariff. This was done, but it appears a portion of the insuring public thinks the rates fixed too high. I trust the remainder of our 1897 risks will run off without more than the average losses, and that our next meeting, if not able to present such a report as to-day, still I hope it will be a satisfactory one. Before proposing the adoption and passing of the accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may have to ask relating thereto.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Mr. T. ARNOLD seconded.

Carried.



Mr. H. HUMPHREYS moved that the appointment of A. J. Raymond as a member of the Consulting Committee be confirmed, and that Messrs. Chater, Ross, Maitland and Raymond be re-elected to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. J. H. Cox seconded.

Carried.

Mr. HO TUNG moved and Mr. BYRAMJEE seconded the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. Fullarton Henderson and W. Hutton Potts.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. I thank you for your attendance.

### THE LABUK PLANTING CO., LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION.)

A general and final meeting of the members of this Company was held on 28th Feb. Mr. J. H. Cox (one of the liquidators) presided and there were also present, Messrs. V. H. Deacon, H. W. Looker (Solicitor to the Liquidators), F. Henderson, Carvalho, and Sung Yow.

The notice convening the meeting having been read the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been presented to you I will adopt the usual course and take them as read. I do not think it is necessary for me to dilate on the accounts as placed before you, but I shall be pleased to answer any question which you may think necessary to ask before proposing their adoption.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DEACON seconded.

Carried.

Mr. DEACON then proposed that the books of the Company be destroyed by the liquidators when they deemed it necessary.

Mr. CARVALHO seconded.

Carried.

Mr. DEACON said there was a small sum laying at the Bank as uncollected capital and as there was very little probability of it every being applied for he would move the following resolution:—"That the sum of \$181.50 now laying at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank as uncollected return of capital be paid to the liquidators in further discharge of their remuneration, the liquidators to pay any claims hereafter made on this fund."

Mr. CARVALHO seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. I am much obliged to you for your attendance,—in fact I am exceedingly obliged.

### CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The twenty-ninth ordinary meeting of the shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held on the 28th Feb., in the offices of the Company. There were present—Messrs. N. A. Siebs (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, C. Beermann, C. S. Sharp, D. Gubbay, A. Haupt (Directors); J. B. Coughtrie (Secretary), E. Jones Hughes, A. Ross, A. Moir, J. M. E. Machado, F. D. Guedes, Wei-A-Yuk, J. Thurburn, D. R. Crawford, A. Denison, E. Georg, H. W. Slade, E. Burnie, R. K. Leigh, J. Orange, E. Osborne, F. Maitland, J. R. Michael, G. de Champeaux, R. C. Wilcox, A. F. Smith, G. S. Northcote, G. L. Tomlin, Fung Ming Shan, Chan Pat, and J. M. S. Alves.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the Directors' Report and Statement of the Company's Accounts for the past year having been in your hands for about three weeks I have no doubt you will consent to take them as read. You will have noticed with great pleasure, I am sure, the extremely favourable out-turn of the year 1896, which owing to exceptionally small losses resulted in a profit of \$259,953.45. The claims accruing to the year's business amounted to no more than 14.15 per cent. of the net premiums received, being the lowest ratio the Company has known for many years and one the like of which may not recur for many years to come. The Directors have been enabled out of this large profit to make up the Reserve Fund to one million dollars, thus accomplishing the aspirations of the original Directors of your Company twenty-eight years ago. This, I am sure, you will feel to be a most gratifying event, and a

notable achievement in a long career of fairly uninterrupted prosperity. But, gentlemen, it is not the opinion of the Directors that we have reached finality. The sphere of our operations is continually enlarging, and as we gradually progress our horizon is always expanding. The conditions of trade, too, are ever changing, and in these days, much more than in the early days of the Company, to remain stationary is to be left hopelessly in the rear. Therefore, the Board feel strongly that though a Reserve Fund of a million dollars may have seemed all-sufficient to the founders of the China Fire it would be unwise for more than one reason, at the present day, to draw a line at that or any other point and say 'beyond this we will not go.' In this matter I know by the approval with which similar remarks from my predecessors in this chair have been received that shareholders are entirely of the same opinion as the Board, and therefore nothing further need be said until the Extraordinary Meeting to follow at the close of this. After the appropriation of \$113,150 to the Reserve Fund, and a sum (which you will observe is diminishing) with which to pay a bonus due to contributors, there will be left sufficient to pay to shareholders a dividend for the year of \$6.65 per share, equal to 33½ per cent. on the paid-up capital, and this your Directors trust may meet with the approval of this Meeting as well as of non-resident shareholders, whose good will and good words are very valuable to us. Turning to the 1897 Accounts, the balance at credit of "Working Account" on the 31st December was \$237,802.90, or about \$29,000 less than was shown the previous year, of which some \$23,000 is accounted for by an increase in the losses. This, as I have already intimated, is not extraordinary, for we cannot expect our losses to be far below the normal ratio for two years in succession. The losses accruing to 1897 that have been reported since the accounts were closed amount to \$20,087, including \$12,400 lost by the terrible fire in Manila of 6th February instant. The losses attaching to the current year have been, so far as ascertained, \$34,600, and of these \$24,000 were due to the Manila fire. I think the other items call for no particular comment. The slight decrease in premiums is due to a falling off in the receipts from a few of our Agencies, which may adjust itself in the course of the present year, but, on the other hand, the small increase in Charges Account is probably permanent, being due largely to the fall in exchange. The Company's Surveyors have carefully examined and reported upon the properties in Hongkong under mortgage to us, and the Board are perfectly satisfied with the security in each instance. These are all the remarks I think you will expect from me, gentlemen, and I will therefore conclude by moving:—"That the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1897, as presented, be adopted." After this has been seconded I shall be happy to reply to any question that may be put relating to business before the Meeting.

Mr. LEIGH—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

There being no remarks the motion was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. A. ROSS—I have much pleasure in proposing that the retiring Directors, Messrs. N. A. Siebs and H. L. Dalrymple, be re-elected.

Mr. MACHADO—I beg to second that.

Carried.

Mr. CRAWFORD—I beg to propose the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. G. Slade, D. Gubbay, and A. Haupt to the Board of Directors.

Mr. GUEDES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. HUGHES—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Potts as Auditors.

Mr. MOIR seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the Meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be posted to shareholders.

### EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders was held at 12.15 p.m., Mr. N. A. Siebs presiding, and all those present at the above Meeting were also present at this.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen—You have heard read the notice convening this Meeting and the resolutions it will shortly be my duty to put to you, and there really remains very little to add to what you have already gathered, —especially as you have, no doubt, well considered the matter in hand upon the receipt of the printed letter addressed to shareholders dated the 5th instant. Your Directors have been much gratified by the approbation expressed on all sides at the step they only agreed upon after long and earnest consideration. In not a single instance has an adverse opinion reached the ears of the Directors, and could this have been foreseen the Board would have been spared some slight misgivings when dealing with a matter that entailed a little meddling with your profits. There has been no canvassing for votes or proxies in order to carry this measure, yet judging from the way proxies have been voluntarily tendered, it is safe to conclude that the proceedings at this Meeting need no apology. As regards the Equalisation of Dividends question, the benefits that would be obtained by the possession of a fund eligible to perform such a function must be sufficiently obvious, but I may recall to your recollection that there have been no less than four occasions in the history of our Company when dividends were paid only by the help of balances brought forward from one year to the following one. Now, gentlemen, without the change we propose to make it would not in future be possible for us to call in the aid of a profitable year to assist the out-turn of an unfortunate year, for, subject to the maintenance of the Reserve Fund at one million dollars, the whole of the profits of each and every year must be divided rateably and paid away. For this reason alone we feel we are completely justified in asking you to give up a trifling proportion of your profits and to carry the Resolutions we have framed, but there are further reasons in other directions. For instance, you will remember that in February, 1889, the Directors obtained your sanction to increase the maximum limit of risk from one hundred thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, no correlative alteration being then made with regard to the Reserve Fund. Now, I need only point to the object lessons even the last few weeks have taught, but luckily not brought home to us, such as the two million dollar Manila fire, with Insurance losses of \$894,000, the Yokohama Railway Depot fire with an estimated loss of \$270,000, besides less important affairs at other places; whilst, to go further afield, there was the great Cripplegate fire and the Melbourne fire, with insurance losses of 9 million and 3 million dollars respectively, to prove that great calamities must occasionally happen which it would be folly to think that Hongkong or Shanghai, for instance, were exempt from. I have to add that the substitution of March for February for holding our Annual Meetings will be a great convenience to us, and make very little difference to shareholders. It will probably only mean a few days' delay, but these few days will enable us to wait so much longer for returns from distant Agencies and to include them in the Statements of Account to be laid before you. I shall be happy to hear and answer any remarks that any shareholder may wish to make before putting the Resolutions to the Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, after a short pause, proposed:—"That Articles Nos. 53 and 122 of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by eliminating therefrom the word 'February' and substituting therefor the word 'March.'"

Captain BURNIE seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. Maitland seconded, the adoption of the following Resolutions:—

"That Article No. 7 be altered by inserting the words 'or Extra Reserve Fund' immediately after the word 'Fund' in the sixth line of the said Article, and the words 'and Extra Reserve Fund' immediately after the word 'Fund' in the seventh line of the said Article."

"That Article No. 121 be altered by inserting the words 'and subject to the provisions of Articles 121A and 121B' immediately after the word 'sum' and before the word 'be' in the fourth line of such Article."



"That the following Articles be inserted immediately after Article No. 121 and be numbered Articles 121A and 121B.

121A.—"Although the Reserve Fund may amount to the sum of One Million Dollars the Directors may nevertheless at their discretion from time to time appropriate a portion, not exceeding ten per cent. of the net income and profits earned by the Company in any one year, to the formation of an additional Reserve Fund, to be called 'Extra Reserve Fund.'"

121B.—"The monies standing at the credit of the Extra Reserve Fund may be applicable for the equalization of dividends, and such monies, or some portion thereof, may whenever the Directors shall think fit, be appropriated towards the equalization of dividends."

Mr. CRAWFORD—Will the action of the Directors have to be confirmed by the shareholders?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, that is the usual course.

Mr. THURBURN—I beg to propose an amendment, and that is that the words, "not exceeding ten per cent." be omitted. The reasons for that are that I think the present reserve of a million is not available for the purpose of equalizing dividends, and if it was I do not think it would be advisable to use it for that purpose. I think all investors will agree with me in thinking that a reserve for equalizing dividends is most important. It is much more satisfactory to feel sure that in spite of bad years, which are certain to come sooner or later, your dividend will not be reduced below a certain sum which you can count on, say at present \$6 a share, than to have high dividends for a time, and then, perhaps, following two bad years running, reduced to almost nothing, as both our Fire Insurance Companies here have had experience of within very recent years. No one knows when the bad years will come. I hope not for a long time, but the quicker the reserve is accumulated the better, and there is no time like the present for doing that, while rates are favourable. Personally, I should like to see it amount to a good round sum before paying higher dividends, but that of course will be left to the discretion of the Directors. The object of my amendment is to enable them to increase the fund at their discretion by any amount they please.

Mr. ROSS—I have much pleasure in seconding that amendment. I think it would be much better if the question were left from year to year to the discretion of the Directors, instead of rigidly fixing it by the Articles of Association.

The amendment was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. MAITLAND seconded, that the alteration to the Articles of Association as amended by the deletion of the words, "not exceeding ten per cent.," be adopted.

Carried.

This was all the business.

#### HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the governing directors for the year ending the 31st December, 1897, for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, at noon on Saturday, 5th March:—  
To the shareholders of Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you our report and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

The net profit for that period, including \$519.29 brought forward from last account, amounts to \$18,934.68, out of which we propose to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year and carry forward \$934.68 to the credit of new profit and loss account.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Fullarton, Henderson, who offers himself for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,  
Governing Directors.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1898.

#### BALANCE SHEET, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account 30,000 shares of \$10 each	300,000.00		
Debentures 200 of \$1,000 each	200,000.00		
Fund for equalization of dividends	25,000.00		
Unclaimed dividends	227.07		
Fixed loans	63,242.38		
Sundry creditors	3,518.19		
Profit and loss	18,934.68		
	<b>\$610,922.32</b>		

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Amount invested in property	464,972.73		
Amount invested on mortgage	15,437.50		
Amount invested in public companies (250 shares of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.)	105,000.00		
Rents due and accounts receivable	8,314.23		
Office furniture	1,212.50		
Cash in H'kong & S'hai Bank	\$13,918.24		
Cash in hand	67.12		
	<b>13,915.36</b>		
	<b>\$610,922.32</b>		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, Dr.		\$	c.
To general charges, Crown rent, fire insurance	3,702.60		
To repairs	1,004.04		
To interest	9,800.15		
To governing directors and auditor's fees and allowance for clerks and office rent	3,100.00		
To dividend of 6 per cent. on \$300,000	18,000.00		
To balance to new account	934.68		
	<b>\$36,541.47</b>		

Cr.		\$	c.
By amount carried forward from 1896	519.29		
By rents	25,078.19		
By commissions and profits on investments	10,849.93		
By transfer fees	94.00		
	<b>\$36,541.47</b>		

#### GEO. FENWICK & CO., LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited, was held at the Hongkong Hotel on 28th Feb. There were present Messrs. W. Parlance (Chairman), A. Rodger (Director), W. G. Winterburn (General Manager), R. C. Wilcox, F. Henderson, W. S. Bailey, J. Rodger, T. Arnold, G. C. Cox, and H. Hyndman, Jr.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, it gives your Directors and General Manager much pleasure to meet you with what they hope you will consider a most satisfactory balance-sheet and report for the year 1897, and which I trust you will allow me to consider as read. The first thing noticeable is, I think, the much earlier date at which we have been enabled to present you with the accounts, thanks principally to the energy of Mr. Hyndman, our book-keeper. You will be pleased to see from the report that we have succeeded in disposing of the Kowloon property, and I would like to explain that although the profit and loss account shows a profit of \$8,500 on its sale we did not really net that profit, as over \$3,000 expended over it during 1896 was debited to that year's account. The expenses in connection with it in 1897 were small and consisted almost wholly of six months' crown rent, which is included in the crown rent and taxes of the present profit and loss account. On the whole transaction we made a net profit, not allowing for interest, of between \$4,000 and \$5,000. The gross earnings in 1897 were smaller than in 1896, but they are, we think, highly satisfactory, and we must expect variations in it. The main thing is to see the work we do is profitable. The cost of labour, material, and working expenses is much less in proportion to the gross earnings than was the case in 1896. This is partly accounted for by the fact that we expended no material on some of the largest and most profitable jobs we had. At our last annual meeting I mentioned that we intended to renew and extend our plant, and you will notice we have expended about \$6,000 in this way. For this we have made a dynamo, which now lights up the fitting and turning shop, and have acquired some modern labour-saving tools and other plant which enables us to turn out a superior class of work at a lower cost than was formerly possible. And I may tell you that the improvement in machine tools

during the last twenty years has been so great that enterprising engineers now discard their old tools—although not worn out—to make room for the latest and best; and this policy we would recommend should be gradually followed, as we are convinced it is only by so doing we can hope to continue to earn good dividends. We trust you will also approve of our taking advantage of a good year to write more than usual from both plant and property account. In addition to that we expended \$1,500, in reconstructing the smith's shop, raising the roof 9 feet and the floor 2 feet, and in rebuilding anew the whole of the hearths, the whole cost of which is included in the working expenses. The bad debts written off are made up of an account we have against a gentleman in Manila, who lately got into trouble there, and had his property confiscated, and of an old claim of some years' standing against an agent at home for defective material supplied us, and as both are extremely doubtful assets, we think it prudent to write them off. We also trust you will approve of our adding to the reserve fund, and in carrying forward a good sum in view of further improving the place; and now that we are more in funds it is our intention to have London bills for material drawn on us at 30 instead of 90 days; thus saving interest. Another item of increased expenditure is caused by the change from Consulting Committee's to Director's fees, but we hope you will in this case consider the labourers worthy of their hire. The profit this year is unusually large. This to a certain extent is accounted for by the large amount of work in progress at the end of 1896, the profit on which, to be on the safe side, we estimated at a low figure; but on the completion of that work we had made a larger profit than we had allowed for, which consequently now goes to swell that of 1897. Of course, we hardly expect to have always as profitable a run of work as these accounts shew, but we have every reason to be hopeful of the future. With the exception of two months during the summer we were full of work during the whole year and at the slack time Mr. Winterburn took the opportunity of one of the steamers we built going to Manila, to pay that place a visit, with the most satisfactory results. We continue to be fully employed, and although at the moment we have no large contracts to begin, our prospects in general work are quite as good as they were at this time last year. I may also tell you that owing to the unusually high price of teakwood at the present time it is extremely difficult to get enquirers to place orders for steamers. I do not think I need say anything further, but before proposing the adoption of the accounts, I will be glad to answer any questions in connection with them.

No questions were asked, and the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WILCOX—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. I think we are all agreed that the report before us is a very satisfactory one, and that the remarks of the Chairman, throwing a good deal of light on the working, are equally satisfactory. I think we all approve very much of the policy of improving the property and plant out of earnings. We have no very large reserve fund, and it may be as well to keep that intact against any future contingency. With these remarks I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. BAILEY, seconded by Mr. J. RODGER, Mr. Parlance, the retiring director, was re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. HENDERSON, seconded by Mr. A. RODGER, Mr. Arnold was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN.—That concludes the business. I thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

A telegram has been received by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha from its agency at Seattle, says the *Japan Herald*, stating that the Company's steamer *Riojun-maru* come into collision with a foreign steamer while lying at anchor in the harbour, and received some damage to her bow. The *Riojun* arrived at Seattle on the 8th inst., and was to have left on the 15th February.



### PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held on 26th Feb. in the office of the Company, Praya Central. Mr. D. Gillies presided and there were also present Messrs. J. H. Lewis, W. H. Loxley (Directors), Thos. Howard, E. W. Terry, Captain Tillett, Hart Buck, G. Murray Bain, G. C. Cox, M. B. Polishwalla, J. R. Michael, G. T. Veitch, D. W. Craddock, J. M. E. Machado, S. B. Bhabha, and J. B. Duncan (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report having been in your hands for some days we will take it as read. The returns for the twelve months under review are not so satisfactory as we anticipated, owing to our reserves of payable ore having been almost worked out, so that during the last three months we had nothing better to pass through the mill than the old headings left by the Chinese who were at work on the Jalis mine many years ago; of these we have crushed about 2,000 tons a month, which yielded from 200 to 250 ounces of smelted gold, barely enough to cover the working expenses. Early last year it was decided by the Board to deepen the August shaft with a view of proving the value of our reef at greater depth, and work was commenced to put the upper part of the shaft in proper order, and to make such alterations to the pumping arrangements as were deemed necessary; sinking was commenced on the 15th April and completed to a depth of 315 feet by the 27th day of August. A cross-cut was then started at the 300 feet level to go out to intersect the course of the East and West reef, but the progress made with the cross-cut was rather slow, owing to the rock being very hard and difficult to blast. On the 18th instant, a telegram was received from Punjom advising that the cross-cut was now beyond the line of the reef, the lode being much split up with many leaders which appear to be running East towards the North and South lode. Quartz is also coming in the face of the North shaft, and in the opinion of Mr. Phillips, the manager, our prospects are now most favourable. This telegram, as you know, does not affect the old Company, but as our position as shareholders in the new Company is now so vastly improved, I thought it well to recall this very important information to your notice. Probably in another week we will be in receipt of letters giving fuller particulars of this new development, which I trust will prove to be the most satisfactory news we have ever received from the Jalis mine. In the month of June last, finding that all the stopes on the main bodies of the payable ore, both above and below the 100 feet level, were almost exhausted, every effort was made to seek in other places for a supply of ore to keep the mill going. Several small shafts were sunk at various places for the purpose of prospecting the upper ground, but we failed to find anything of value. In the early part of the year work was resumed at Gobau, and a shaft commenced to test the reef at a greater depth, the intention being to go down to 100 feet from the surface, but as the water became very heavy and we had no mechanical means ready to cope with it, we decided to cross-cut at 60 feet, which was done and the reef intersected at 28 feet from the shaft; the width of the reef where seen is 14 in. but as the stone was of a very low grade, and our funds nearly exhausted, work was discontinued and has not since been resumed. The calcining works have been run almost continuously during the year, but on account of the heavy charge for firewood this process of treating the concentrates is not satisfactory, but we hope to be in a position shortly to treat them by cyanide and obtain much better results. The cyanide works have also been run continuously throughout the year, but the returns, owing to the very low value of the bullion obtained, may be considered to fall far short of what we anticipated. The process is worked by a Mr. Kraal who picked up the little he knows of chemistry at Punjom, and we fear that his lack of skill and experience is the principal cause of

our failure. We are now in correspondence with our agents at Charters Towers with regard to the engagement of a capable cyanider and hope to have an able man at the works very shortly. The cyanide process is now being worked most successfully in Australia, and we hope that equally good results will be obtained at Punjom in the near future. In the months of January, February, and March of last year, there was a greatly diminished output of gold from the mine, while our expenditure at the same time continued to be very heavy; then with no reserves of payable ore in sight, and our working balance reduced to a very low figure, our financial affairs really seemed to be in a very critical position indeed, so that your Board of Directors could see no other way out of the difficulty than a scheme of reconstruction. Accordingly, at a meeting of shareholders held on the 27th day of October, 1897, the necessary resolutions to wind up the old company were duly passed, and confirmed at a subsequent meeting. Our attendance here to-day is to adopt and pass the report and accounts of the old Punjom Gold Mining Company, and with this business completed all further connection of the shareholders with the working of the old company will cease. I do not think I have anything more, gentlemen, to say with regard to the old company, and as for the new company all I would like to say with regard to it had better be reserved for our next meeting, the statutory meeting, when I hope to be able to communicate some further information with regard to the development of the mine. Our business now is to pass the report and statement of accounts.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and statement of accounts be adopted and passed.

Mr. VEITCH seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I may mention that the dividend due upon preference shares will be paid shortly by the liquidator. We received a letter from Mr. Bailey a short time ago, which possibly might interest shareholders, and I now ask the Secretary to please read it.

The SECRETARY read some correspondence from Mr. Bailey.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attendance to-day. Although the information I have placed before you is not of a very satisfactory nature, yet it is a duty we have to perform in closing the old Company. That has now been done, and I think that a brighter future is in store for us with regard to the new Company. I hope our next letters from the mine will give us some definite information, and will be quite up to, if not exceeding, our expectations. (Applause.)

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Company's mine for the month ending 31st January, 1898:—

August Shaft, 300 feet Level.—Work was resumed here on the morning of the 10th ult. after the water had drained off. The water, however, got into the soft ground causing small falls of rock, so that it was necessary to timber this portion of the level. This has now been done up to the face of the drive, 74 feet having been strongly timbered. Fair progress has been made for the time worked, 22 feet having been driven, making total distance from shaft 173 feet. I hope in my next report to advise you of having struck the lode with payable stone.

200 feet Level.—This has been driven during the month 14 feet, making total distance from west crosscut 38 ft., very good progress for the time worked. I have stopped this for the present, it having in my opinion passed through a chute of ore, and I prefer to prospect this chute at a deeper level.

North Shaft.—This has been sunk 20 feet, making total depth from surface 234 feet. At 17 feet below the 200 feet we struck what appeared to be the lode, but it proved to be only a hanging wall leader of 2 feet thick carrying good looking mineral, but no free gold. You will see from plans sent you that we should strike the main chute of stone at about 40 feet, or in 13 feet more of sinking. We should get fairly good stone here when met with.

Chinese New Year.—All works except milling was stopped for four days. Malays were put on to tram to mill.

Milling was carried on for 28 days, crushing 2,400 tons of headings for a yield of 300 ozs. of smelted gold.

Berdan Fans treated 36 tons of concentrates for a yield of 36 ozs. making total output 336 ozs. This should leave a profit on the month's work.

Cyanide Plant worked 26 days, treating 720 tons of tailings for a return of 264 ozs. 5 grs. of bullion, valued at 15/7½ per oz. This also should leave a profit on the month's run.

Fire.—On the night of the 31st ult. fire destroyed two-thirds of the Chinese camp. In the business part of it all the shops were burnt down. The camp is built on either side of the Jalis river and is so closely built that if one house takes fire there is no hope of saving the smallest portion. The Company have suffered no loss.

General.—Everything coming under this head is having attention and things generally are in good order.

Labour.—Very plentiful and the health of camp is good.

Rainfall for the month is 13½ inches.

### PRINCE HENRY'S MOVEMENTS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS." SINGAPORE, 24th February.

Prince Henry of Prussia arrived at Singapore to-day with his squadron—the *Gefion* and *Deutschland*. He landed as an Admiral and at once called on His Excellency the Governor. He then drove to the German Consulate, after which he returned to Government House and attended Lady Mitchell's reception.

In the evening Prince Henry dined with His Excellency the Governor and afterwards attended a reception at the Teutonia Club.

To-morrow Prince Henry goes to Johore tiger shooting.

SINGAPORE, 27th February.

Prince Henry of Prussia will leave Singapore with his squadron on Monday afternoon for Hongkong.

### HIS HONGKONG ENGAGEMENTS.

The arrangements for the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia and his squadron to Hongkong have been practically completed. His Excellency the Acting Governor, Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., telegraphed to His Royal Highness at Singapore inviting him to dinner the nights he was in Hongkong and also offering him a garden party if the length of his stay here permitted it. His Royal Highness replied that he would dine with His Excellency on Wednesday evening, the 9th instant. After dinner he will go to the German Club to a reception to be given by the German community. The Prince will be here only two days and therefore there will not be sufficient time for a garden party to be given.

### THE SHANGHAI ARRANGEMENTS.

At a meeting of the German residents of Shanghai, held at the Club Concordia on the 26th February, to consider the reception of Prince Henry of Prussia, Dr. Stuebel and Mr. Korff, the president of the Club, were elected a committee to wait upon His Imperial Highness during his stay in Shanghai. It was also decided that, subject to H.I.H.'s approval, a ball should be given in his honour. It is also proposed that Prince Henry shall at a future period unveil the monument to be erected by German residents in Shanghai to the memory of the brave men who went down in the *Itis*. The monument is being made in Berlin and should be presently on the way out. It is to be erected on the Bund.

### GREAT FIRE IN CANTON.

A disastrous fire broke out in Canton at 5 p.m. on the 26th February and before the flames were extinguished sixty shops were destroyed. The fire originated in a joss paper shop in West Hing Loong Street, and as most of the shops in that neighbourhood trade in crackers and joss paper the fire spread very rapidly. It is not known how the fire was caused. Most of the shops burnt were re-built about six years ago, when a big fire broke out in the same locality.



### THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following reports from their mining manager:—

Mount Macdonald,  
26th January, 1898.

Since last report the sinking of Queen main shaft to a depth of 350 feet has been completed and a drive to cut reef started and driven 7½ feet. Ground favourable and well mineralised. Contractors for battery making fair progress. Re erecting battery and engine sheds. During the fortnight two men have been prospecting on the Balmoral mine without success, working on the half share and half pay system.

Mount Macdonald,  
7th February, 1898.

I have the honour to report having cut reef at a depth of 350 feet in the Queen Mine, distant from the shaft 12 feet west, having a slight easterly underlie. I may here state that at 205 feet level the reef has a strong westerly underlie as had also the main wall where passed through in sinking below the 205 feet level. The change may be regarded as a good indication, seeing the good shoots of stone near the surface on the Grant and Queen Mines had an easterly underlie.

I can give no definite information as to the size and quality of the reef beyond the fact that it is to all appearances a solid and well defined lode. We have broken into it a distance of 2 feet and no sign of being through it. It is highly mineralized, but no gold visible yet, but from the quality of the mineral it contains we confidently anticipate finding good gold in the reef before we get through it and north and south of the crosscut. I may here state that the striking of this reef at the depth stated definitely settles the question re the existence of a second formation, as all the reefs worked in the Grant Mine tailed out before reaching the bottom tunnel, and now by driving south from our present level we ought to cut the second formation of all reefs or shutters worked near the surface.

New Balmoral Mine.—One party of tributors have a small parcel of stone carted to the battery ready for treatment and another party are prospecting on their own account on terms highly satisfactory to the Company.

Contractors for re-erection of battery making fair progress, there being a lot more work to do than they at first anticipated, but it will be a first class job when completed.

### OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following reports from their Mining Manager:—

Mount Macdonald,  
26th January, 1898.

Eureka Main Shaft.—Have cut chamber at 300 feet level. The reef was struck at a distance of 10 feet from the shaft. 3 feet has been driven into it without any indications of being through it. It is of very promising appearance, solid hard stone, showing gold to the naked eye. Will report more fully upon it when more developed and size ascertained. Stopping is being carried on at back of 150 and 200 feet levels, where large bodies of ore are exposed.

Eureka B Shaft.—Tenders for sinking this shaft a further depth of 167 feet were opened on the 20th inst., but although there were at the time a large number of men seeking employment the prices asked for the work were much above the estimated cost, consequently none of the offers were accepted. The work will be carried on by day labour at an early date.

Freehold Battery.—Owing to the very muddy water we were obliged to use in the boilers previous to the late rain we found that there was a large accumulation of mud, which unless cleaned out would endanger the safety of the boiler. To guard against this it was necessary to stop for 20 hours, during which time the boilers were cleaned out and tested up to 75 lbs. hydraulic pressure, which is highly satisfactory. Everything is in first class order and the battery is doing excellent work.

Mount Macdonald,  
7th February, 1898.

Eureka Mine.—Since last report have driven through the reef at the 300 feet level. Total width of reef 8 feet between two good walls and showing gold throughout. Consider the prospects at this level equal to, in fact better than at the 200 feet level, there being more clean stone at the bottom and the gold is coarser.

Stopes above the Nos. 1 and 2 levels yielding good average ore as required for the battery. Pushing on the drives north and south at the 150 feet or No. 1 level whenever men can be spared from the stopes. Mine throughout in first class order with an unlimited amount of ore in sight.

Battery.—Owing to an unforeseen and unprecedented accident to one of the Watson and Denny pans, and having to put new segments in another, we did not get through near the average quantity of stone. Everything has been remedied and the full 20 head and 4 pans are now in full work, and during the coming fortnight a fair average of stone will be taken from every part of the mine, and we hope to get through at least 400 tons.

Have two men engaged sinking the Eureka B Shaft, making good progress. No other work being done at present.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, inform us that they have received the following telegram from the mines:—"A crushing of 350 tons of stone from the Eureka Mine has yielded 136 ounces of gold."

### GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the Manager at the Mines:—

Mount Macdonald, N.S.W.,  
28th Jan., 1898.

Great Eastern Main Shaft has been extended a further depth of 9 feet, making a total depth from the brace of 120 feet. All timber, ladder stages have been put in position, so that this shaft is complete to the above depth. At present there is a hard bar of country in the bottom, which, however, should pass out in a few feet.

Old Great Eastern drive 50 feet level.—After hauling the broken quartz to the surface, we have started to continue this drive in order to cut the shutters of gold higher up the hill.

Caledonian Main Shaft has been sunk a further depth of 10 feet, making 87 feet in all from brace. We seem to be getting now into better country, but the shaft is making a little more water.

Zulu Main Shaft.—I am glad to be able to inform you that we have recovered the shute of gold in the foot wall, where we have been looking for it after being unable to trace it in the hanging wall. The reef, after cutting out on a floor, has made again, and whilst it was only 9 inches wide above the floor it averages now 18 inches, the width improving with depth, which speaks well for the future of this mine. An average sample sent to Sydney for assay gave:

3 ozs. 0 dwt. 10 gr. Gold. } per ton  
— 6 " 12 " Silver }

a very pleasing result. Owing to the prospecting work and timbering we have only been able to sink three more feet, making the total from brace 83 feet.

Prospecting Shaft.—This has been sunk a further depth of 12 feet, or a total depth from brace of 74 feet. There is nothing fresh to report from here. The formation is still going down and in very broken country, three open cracks or floors being cut in the shaft last week.

Rain.—We had two splendid showers and have now ample water.

There was a fairly good attendance at St. John's Cathedral on Monday afternoon, when Mr. A. G. Ward gave an organ recital, assisted by Mrs. Vallings as vocalist. The items were nicely varied in character, and Mr. Ward played each with his usual marked ability. Mrs. Vallings sang her solos with excellent expression, her items making a very agreeable variation in the programme.

### DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK AND CO. (IN LIQUIDATION.)

A general meeting of the members of Dakin, Cruickshank and Company (in liquidation) was held at the Hongkong Hotel 1st March [at noon, for the purpose of having an account laid before them shewing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of and of hearing any explanation that might be given by the liquidator, and also of determining by extraordinary resolution the manner in which the books, accounts, and documents of the Company and of the liquidator thereof shall be disposed of. Mr. F. Maitland (liquidator) presided and there were also present—Messrs. H. L. Dennys (solicitor), A. G. Stokes, E. Jones Hughes, Ho Fuk, W. Hay, R. A. Gabbay, W. R. Loxley, Chun A. Yat, A. A. H. Botelho, M. S. S. Sassoon, and Rozario.

Mr. MAITLAND said—Gentlemen, in accordance with the notices published in the *Government Gazette* and the daily papers, we meet here to-day for the purpose of having an account laid before you showing the manner in which the winding up of Messrs. Dakin, Cruickshank & Co., Limited, has been conducted, the property disposed of, and of hearing any explanations from me, as liquidator. I have now to state that the original offer, referred to at the private meeting of the shareholders of the Company on 17th December, 1896, was made by the purchasers as follows:—\$75,000 down; if accepted, the purchasers to take over every asset and leave a liquidator to meet all the liabilities, but at my own suggestion I got the purchasers to make an alternative offer as under:—75 cents per share on the capital of 28,050 shares, if accepted, the purchasers to take over all assets and all liabilities except capital. For two reasons I accepted the latter offer, for not only did this facilitate the liquidation, but, as I confidently anticipated, it turned out to prove a more advantageous one for the shareholders, as the following statement will show:—

28,050 shares at 75 cents per share	\$21,037.50
Bank overdraft at time of sale	29,935.65
London liabilities at time of sale	11,650.89
Local and Amoy liabilities at time of sale	10,998.92
Goods not paid for but delivered on acceptances to drafts "documents for acceptance"	4,800.00

\$78,422.06

or \$3,422.96 at least better than the original offer of \$75,000. I might add with regard to this that it was absolutely impossible to get the exact figures. These figures I have agreed on with the purchasers and they are rather under than over, as the liquidator would have to be answerable for every agreement with the whole staff and as regards the lease and other matters which had not been taken into consideration in these figures. As regards the purchasers, on the other hand, they settled the London liabilities promptly on much more favourable terms than a liquidator having surplus assets in hand could have done, as would have been the case if the \$75,000 offer had been accepted. With regard to the remarks I made on the condition of the Company at the extraordinary meeting held on 17th December, 1896, I trust the shareholders will agree with me that it was impossible to continue the concern without fresh capital and some extensive alterations in the management, and I would explain that for several months before the Company went into liquidation there was a talk of selling it as a going concern if it could not be carried on, but no other *bona fide* offers reached me, although several parties talked of buying at figures considerably short of the offer I obtained and accepted. There is one other point I would refer to, viz., at the private meeting above alluded to it was suggested that I should advertise the business for sale. This was not done, and I would explain that before advertising I felt it my duty to refer the matter to the purchasers who had made a *bona fide* offer, which offer ran out on 15th January, 1897, and they replied that it was quite apparent that they would not have made the offer had they been aware that the business was to have been so advertised and that they should not consider themselves bound by their



offer if I advertized the business for sale. With these remarks, gentlemen, I have now to lay before you an account of the liquidation and I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to ask.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN asked some gentleman to propose the necessary resolutions.

Mr. STOKES—I beg to propose that the account submitted to this meeting and showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of be received and adopted.

Mr. GUBBAY seconded.

Carried.

Mr. SASSOON proposed that the books, accounts, and documents of the Company and of the liquidator thereof be retained by the said liquidator upon the understanding that he will retain such for five years from this date.

Mr. STOKES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. STOKES—What about the unpaid dividends—the \$1,300?

The CHAIRMAN—I shall pay that over as fast as I can. There are some shares that ought to be in the colony, but they have not been produced yet, and there are some in Shanghai and other places. I am going to send out a circular to every registered shareholder. In regard to the unappropriated \$80, it was impossible for me to get the exact sum. I may state that the unappropriated sum is a little more than I had anticipated owing to shareholders not collecting their dividend and the Bank's interest being more than I expected.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The following are the accounts presented to the meeting:—

Voluntary winding up as per two special resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders held at the Hongkong Hotel on 17th December, 1896, and duly confirmed at an extraordinary meeting held at the same place on 11th January, 1897.

RECEIPTS		\$	c.
To A. S. Watson & Co., Limited, on account of the concerned for business of Dakin, Cruickshank & Co., Limited, both here and at Amoy, including all assets and all liabilities except capital 75 cents per share on 28,050 shares.		21,037.50	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, interest on current account		293.33	
To fees for new scrip		1.00	
		\$21,331.83	

PAYMENTS.		\$	c.
By Chairman; fees for signing minutes of meetings of 17th December, 1896, and 11th January, 1897, at \$25 per meeting		50.00	
By Supreme Court Registration fee		3.00	
By H. L. Denays, legal expenses		163.60	
By advertising		149.45	
By rent hotel room, stationery, printing, and petties		48.75	
By liquidator's fee		500.00	
By first and final dividends paid to shareholders on 26,346 shares at 72½ cents per share		19,100.89	
By balance in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		1,316.14	
		\$21,331.83	

Balance as above, represents:—	
Unpaid dividends, 1,704 shares at 72½ cents per share	\$1,235.30
Unappropriated	80.75
	\$1,316.14

#### HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

On 26th Feb. a match was played between two Club elevens, the "A" Team and the "B" Team. Mast winning the toss sent in Moberly and Nicholas. These men were not separated until 51 runs had been scored, Moberly being the first to go with 32 runs to his credit. The bowling at first was very indifferent, but after a double change was made, Campbell and Cox going on in lieu of Langhorne and Bodington, the wickets soon fell, Robinson, Vallings, and Wood causing a little trouble at the finish. The innings was over before 2.30 p.m., for a total of 173 runs.

The "B" team could make no headway against Vallings' bowling, Campbell being the only one who made any stand, and he was extremely unfortunate in not carrying out his bat. He was the first man to go in and his was the last wicket that fell. The eleven only totalled 90, of which Campbell made 34. Vallings managed to get a great deal of work on the ball, the sticky ground just suiting him.

Following on the "B" team did better, Campbell and Atkinson putting on 62 runs for the second wicket. When time was called 103 runs had been scored for seven wickets.

Score and bowling analysis:—

"A" TEAM.	
Lt Moberly, H K.R., c and b Campbell	32
Lieut. Nicholas R.N., b Campbell	46
Capt. Simmonds, b Cox	3
A. Mackenzie, c and b Cox	4
E. Mast (Capt.), c and b Campbell	8
S. Hastings, R.N., b Cox	9
J. Robinson, b Cox	20
Rev. G. R. Vallings, c Dewar, b Campbell	19
Lt. Lethbridge, K.O.R., not out	6
David Wood, b Cox	14
Extras	12
Total	173

BOWLING ANALYSIS.					
Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
H.S. Langhorne	1	19	—	—	—
A.E. Bodington	—	19	1	—	—
Dewar	2	17	1	—	—
G. D. Campbell	—	81	—	—	4
P. A. Cox	—	25	—	1	5

"B" TEAM.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
H. D. Campbell, b Lethbridge	34	c Sub. b Lethbridge	15		
G. S. Langhorne, l.b.w., b Vallings	14	c Lethbridge, b Wood	28		
P. A. Cox, c substitute b Vallings	0	c Hastings; b Robinson	0		
F. G. Egerton, b Vallings	3				
A. G. Bodington, c and b Vallings	4	b Lethbridge	16		
E. H. Ellis, b Vallings	2	run out	0		
Capt. Tancock, c and b Vallings	6				
Lt. Dewar, c Vallings, b Lethbridge	7	c Sub. b Vallings	30		
J. M. Atkinson, c Hastings, b Vallings	0	c Simmonds, b Vallings	1		
J. S. Bartrum, not out	8				
A. R. Greene, c Simmonds, b Vallings	12	Extras	13		
Extras	90	Total	103		
Total					

BOWLING ANALYSIS.					
Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Vallings	12	2	49	—	8
Lethbridge	17	3	29	—	2
Second Innings.					
Lethbridge	14	2	26	—	2
Vallings	6	1	30	—	2
Mackenzie	2	—	33	—	—
Robinson	5	1	11	—	1
Wood	2	—	10	—	1

#### ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

ROYAL ENGINEERS' CUP—SECOND RACE. February 26th, 1898.—Course.—From Police Pier, Kowloon, round Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock, Meyer's buoy, Channel Rocks (all to port), and finish at starting line; 9½ miles.

HANDICAP.	
Erica	scratch, allows
Maid Marian	9.51 1 min. 30 sec.
Phoebe	23.68 3 " 45 "
Chanticleer	26.03 4 " 7 "
Meteor	26.19 4 " 8 "
Active	34.40 5 " 26 "
Ladybird	47.12 7 " 27 "
Dart	57.28 9 " 4 "

There was a strong east wind, and Phoebe, Ladybird and Dart were reefed. Erica went off with the lead, but was passed off Meyer's Oil Works by both Maid Marian and Chanticleer, but got into second place to the Maid Marian at Channel Rocks. Dart went well with the A class boats in the strong wind, but Ladybird soon fell behind. Phoebe, with her reefed sail, was going fairly well, but it was not her weather. There was not much difference in time between first and last at Channel Rocks, but in the run down to Kowloon Rock and the reach to Meyer's buoy, the fleet got rather

spread out. The wind was harder on the second beat up, and the Maid Marian, Erica, and Chanticleer went away from the rest. Meteor lost her rudder at the start of the race, and had to retire. Active was sailing a good average with the whole fleet, and was a good fourth. In the run down to the finish, Phoebe passed Dart, but this was the only change, and a quick race was finished as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.	
Maid Marian	3	54	34	10 marks first
Erica	3	55	31	
Chanticleer	3	57	54	4 " second
Active	3	59	33	
Phoebe	4	1	11	
Dart	4	2	54	1 " third
Ladybird	4	3	57	

The marks scored in this competition are now:—

Meteor	10
Maid Marian	10
Dart	5
Chanticleer	4
Erica	1

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Within the last two or three weeks the writer has been informed by several well-to-do Chinese that they are selling their land and house property in the interior and bringing their money to Hongkong for investment; in each case giving as a reason the fact that the extortion of the officials, the piracy rife throughout the country, the failing resources of the people, and the sense of impending rebellion and consequent disorders influences them in doing so. When level-headed business men, who usually reverse the operation and take money made in the colony to the mainland for investment in real estate, are doing this and bringing their families to Hongkong there must be some ground for their action.

ALERT.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1898.

#### THE PROPOSED NEW POST OFFICE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Russia on behalf of herself and France and France on behalf of herself and Russia on one side, and Great Britain on behalf of herself and all the world on the other, were for a long time engaged in a very keen diplomatic contest in regard to re-arrangements in China. For a time the result was doubtful, but at last the unholy alliance seemed to have achieved success and Freedom shrieked, for it was supposed that England had fallen. Their grasp seemed firm, but success is not success till it has succeeded. A new power, the Hongkong and German Banks, appeared on the scene, Liberty triumphed, and all men will be gainers.

The Hon. Mr. Chater on behalf of himself and the Justices of the Peace and the Hon. Mr. Whitehead on behalf of himself and the Chamber of Commerce on one side and the Hon. Mr. Belilios on behalf of himself and all the public of Hongkong on the other have for a long time been engaged in a keen diplomatic contest in regard to rearrangements in Hongkong. For a time the result was doubtful but at last the local alliance seemed to have achieved success and Hongkong wept in despair, for it was supposed that public interests had gone to the wall. The grasp of the oligarchy seemed firm, but a new power, the Hon. Mr. Ormsby, appeared on the scene, Independence triumphed, and all men in Hongkong (except one or two interested parties) will be the gainers. I have not the honour to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, nor even a Justice of the Peace, but if I had I should still say that my representatives were not representing

MY INTERESTS.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I think it is undoubted that there has hitherto been an impression that the owners of property on the new Praya would benefit by



having the Government Offices built there, but as you clearly show they would gain more by having the Post Office retained on its present site. The question is consequently being asked why the Hon. Mr. Chater, who is known to be the largest holder of land in that district, should be so anxious to have it there in spite of his own personal interest to the contrary. The question, I fear, is prompted by that spirit of suspicion and uncharitableness with which most of us are more or less endowed. Even if there should still remain a doubt I think that Mr. Chater, considering the long time he has been amongst us and the great advantages which his energy and foresight have conferred on the colony and on many of us individually, should be given the benefit of it. To my mind the answer to the question is that Mr. Chater is a public spirited citizen and is willing, and in such a position that he can afford to sacrifice his personal interest for the public good. This was shown by the great amount of his valuable time which he devoted to collecting from the public subscriptions towards the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. He did that without any thought of reward or recognition, as he himself publicly declared, but Her Majesty's Government, who could in no way be influenced by feelings of personal friendship, rightly honoured him and the colony by conferring on him a Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michel and St. George. Why, then, should it be assumed that he would not be likely to forego a little personal benefit to himself for what he conscientiously believes to be for the public benefit? That Mr. Chater can be thoroughly conscientious in such matters he showed by his declaration in the Legislative Council that he never gave to his partner information on public affairs which came to his knowledge through his position as the senior unofficial member of our local Legislature, and that notwithstanding it is known that their transactions involve very large sums, in the turning over of which a few hours or even a few minutes information in advance of the public would be of great benefit to them. Of course it may be said that Mr. Chater's position places him above those petty considerations to which most of us, and perhaps even he himself under other circumstances, would succumb; but here again I say that he is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Why should we doubt or be jealous because we ourselves are incapable of standing on such a high plane? Caution and suspicion are instincts formed and inherited in the course of ages by our struggle for existence, but I think the public will agree with you that it was very wrong in Mr. Belilios or anyone else to impute self interest to Mr. Chater.—Yours faithfully,

W.

Hongkong, 2nd March 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—You invite ideas on this subject. I think there are only two, that held by Mr. Chater, his henchman, Mr. Whitehead, and yourself, and that held by the community at large. As to sites, seeing it is now certain that the New Praya will not be extended eastward there would in one case be on the north the harbour, on the east that huge folly, the now deserted Hongkong Club, and the Taikoo Hong, only these and nothing more, on the south and west sides the whole of the town, business and residential; in the other we have and will continue to have, however much and in whatever direction the town may extend, as central a position as could possibly be got. The Reclamation will extend west of Ice House street as well as east of it. And the time is coming when all Chinese letters will have to pass through the General Post Office. We have also to consider the Treasury as well as the Post Office. From all I can hear you are going dead against public opinion, and I venture to think that you and Mr. Chater are only beating the wind.—Yours faithfully,

W.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—I have just been examining a map of Hongkong and fail to see how the site on the Reclamation can be considered central, or likely to become so. It is bounded on the north by the sea, communication to the eastward

is limited to the Hongkong Club, Butterfield & Swire's and the Telegraph Company, as beyond that the Naval Yard acts as an effective and apparently permanent barrier. A stretch of nearly a quarter of a mile following the road in a south-westerly direction separates it from the busiest portion of the City of Victoria. If a pillar box were asked for at the corner of the Reclamation site I should say by all means, but to build a General Post Office away from the business centre of the town, in the hope that the business will follow it, seems to me to be expecting too much and rather reminds one of the fable of Mahomet and the Mountain. I do not believe there is anywhere a precedent for carrying out such a proposal as the suggested erection of a G. P. O. on the Reclamation site. Sydney is not unlike Hongkong in its geographical position, being a large town with a fine harbour, but although it can boast of a magnificent G.P.O. this Post Office is not erected on the harbour frontage for "look see pidgin," but, on the contrary, is built in the business centre of the town, where it is most wanted. Again, take London. The G.P.O. is not situated on the Thames Embankment but in the heart of the City.

A good deal of apprehension seems to exist in some quarters that if the Post Office is retained where it is, it will, in time, be surrounded by Chinese shops. In answer to this I would point out that it is proposed to have roads on all four sides of the new building, whichever site is selected, and that globe trotters and property holders alike would prefer to face such "Chinese shops" as Lock Hing's and A Tack's than such dilapidated looking structures as the block of "European" houses which stretch from Deacon and Hastings' offices to "Crosby's Store." I do not think that Chinese shops such as those seen at East Point and West Point would be permitted, or pay if they were permitted, because the shops in the neighbourhood of the present Post Office would depend largely on Europeans for support. There is nothing offensive to the eye about such Chinese shops as the two I have mentioned by name; in fact they are superior both inside and outside to nearly all the European stores in the colony.

If the idea is to make the Reclamation the swell quarter of the colony, by removing thither all the principal public buildings, it seems to me that the removal of the Post Office to this site will defeat this object, as practically only Chinese use the Post Office and Treasury, where crowds of dirty coolies can be seen loafing about at all hours of the day. The only Europeans to use the Post Office to any extent are globe trotters. Now a globe trotter's first act after landing at the first central wharf (which will be Pedder's) is to seek the best hotel; having arrived there he enquires as to the whereabouts of the Post Office, and what more handy to the Hongkong Hotel than the present one?

I am afraid, Mr. Editor, I am taking up a lot of your space, but you ask in your leader of this morning for ideas of a non-personal nature, and I have attempted to give you a few which must be taken for what they are worth.

Yours truly,

H.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1898.

## HONGKONG

The weather wobbled very considerably during the past week. We have had fine weather with dull intervals and dull weather with fine intervals, and the temperature has been cold one minute and hot the next, while the wind has been boisterous at one period of the day and a dead calm at another. Rinderpest has again broken out in the colony, but so far only a small farm has been affected. The Sanitary Board has held two special meetings to discuss the subject and after much talk the members decided to take certain steps to prevent the spread of the disease. On the 28th February the Legislative Council held a meeting, and a long discussion took place on the question of the new Post Office site. The Jubilee Committee have presented their accounts and are now taking active measures to secure the establishment of the hospital for women and children and the nursing institute at the Peak, the idea at present being to purchase Craigieburn. On the 26th Feb. Mr. W. V. Drummond delivered a lecture at the

City Hall on "The Secret of the British Empire." During the week several Company meetings have been held.

Owing to Hon. H.E. Wodehouse being indisposed, Commander Hastings has been sitting as Magistrate during the past week.

The Commodore's pennant was hoisted on board H.M.S. *Tamar* on 3rd March, when the crew of H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel* were transferred to her.

Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, first clerk at the Magistracy, went home on leave on 1st March by the *Sachsen*. We wish Mr. Arthur a pleasant voyage and hope he will enjoyably spend his well earned holiday in England.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

C. Holdsworth ..... \$5

The Right Rev. Dr. Carvalho, the new Bishop of Macao, who arrived by the French mail, left on 1st March in the Portuguese gunboat *Bengo* to assume the duties of his diocese. Great preparations had been made in Macao for his reception.

It is stated that instructions have been received by the authorities at Canton from Peking to proceed with the construction of a railway from Canton to Wuchowfu. We hope this project will not hang fire as long as the projected Kowloon and Canton Railway.

On 25th February the matched barracks at Kowloon occupied by a company of men of the King's Own Regiment caught fire, and before the flames were extinguished a considerable portion of the barracks was destroyed, together with most of the men's clothing and accoutrements.

Her Majesty held an investiture at Osborne on the 25th January. Amongst the gentlemen who had the honour of knighthood conferred upon them was Mr. Justice Ackroyd. The gentlemen afterwards partook of luncheon at the Palace. They travelled across the Solent from and to Portsmouth in the Royal yacht *Alberta*.

There was a large attendance at the Theatre Royal on Saturday night 26th Feb. when the Amateur Dramatic Club made their final appearance in "The Duchess of Bayswater & Co." and "A Pantomime Rehearsal." Each piece was loudly applauded and during the evening bouquets were presented to the lady performers.

The result of the argument in Chambers in regard to the question of costs in the share case was that His Lordship the Chief Justice decreed that Mr. Gorham, the defendant, should pay the full costs of the suit up to the date of hearing, and two-thirds of the costs from the date of the commencement of the hearing to date of judgment.

We learn that in accordance with the leave granted by the Chief Justice in his judgment delivered on the 12th February, the plaintiffs in the synagogue case have applied to amend their petition so as to make a case for specific performance. It will be remembered that what they asked for before was a declaration of trust; and upon that issue they failed.

Several lots of property at the Peak were offered for sale by auction by Mr. G. P. Lammert at his sales room on 1st March. Craigieburn was to have been one of the lots, but the sale of this property was postponed by request until the 16th March. The reason for the postponement is that the idea of acquiring the property for the purposes of the Jubilee Hospital for Women and Children and Nursing Institute has been brought forward and is now under consideration. The first lot offered for sale yesterday was No. 6, Stewart Terrace, which was put up at \$3,000. The bidding advanced by \$100 and \$50 to \$4,450, at which sum the property was knocked down to Mr. Ka Poo. The second lot was No. 7, Stewart Terrace, which was knocked down to the same buyer for \$4,150. No. 8, Stewart Terrace was bought by Mr. Pinckney for \$4,500, and No. 9, Stewart Terrace was bought by Mr. Ka Poo for \$4,250. Rural building lot No. 82, containing 10,080 square feet, with the two houses known as Wageningen and The Retreat, was then offered, the upset price being \$15,000, but as no bid was made in advance of this figure, the property was withdrawn.



H.M.S. *Powerful* went out for another trial of her engines on Wednesday morning. She left the harbour at 9.30 and returned about four o'clock in the afternoon. We hear that she accomplished a speed of nineteen knots an hour. This is an improvement on the previous trial, but it is still three knots an hour below the speed required of her.

On Sunday the steamer *Tai On*, which was chartered by Mr. L. J. Xavier, made an enjoyable excursion trip to Macao. The wharf at Macao was decorated with flags and leaves and the excursionists spent a very pleasant time, the great feature of interest being the procession of the Cross. The return voyage was commenced at 11 p.m. and owing to fog Hongkong was not reached until 4 a.m. on Monday morning.

## COMMERCIAL.

## TEA.

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao .....	5,887,884	6,277,746
Shanghai and Hankow ...	14,058,839	17,800,185
Foochow .....	12,309,801	12,518,868
Amoy .....	685,651	589,478
	32,942,265	37,195,277

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai .....	18,823,511	18,244,124
Amoy .....	15,107,721	19,022,415
Foochow .....	7,516,903	11,405,219
	41,448,135	48,671,758

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	19,462,293	22,949,123

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama .....	20,414,353	27,365,005
Kobe .....	15,602,288	11,777,490
	42,016,641	42,142,495

## SILK.

CANTON, 18th February.—Tsatees.—The market is quite bare of Tsatees of all grades and nothing is expected on the market for the next 3 months. Re-reels.—Nothing obtainable. Some orders at \$55 for No. 1 Grant could not be executed, there being no sellers. Filatures.—Very little has been done since last report. There is some demand for Best chops 11/13 and 13/15, but other sizes and lower qualities are almost entirely neglected. From prices we quote: \$315/805 for Kwong Shun Cheong and Miu King Lun 11/13 and 13/15, \$793/780 for Kwong Sun On 11/13 and 13/15, \$720 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13 and King Wo 13/15. Short-reels.—Have been in little demand. From prices paid we quote: \$785 for Hau King Lun 14/16, for Hip Sam Choy 14/16, \$700 for Yut Cheong Wo 14/16. Waste.—A good business has been done at hardening prices. Stocks.—Tsatees, 500 bales. Filatures, 4/500 bales.

SHANGHAI, 28th February.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London messages to 25th current quote Blue Elephant 11/0; Firm market. In Lyons Gold Kilins are quoted Fcs. 28.75. Raw Silk.—Settlements are restricted to about 100 bales each Tsatees, Taysams, Yellow Silks and Filatures at quotations given below. Arrivals, as per Customs R-turns, 19th to 25th current: 19 bales White, 7 piculs Yellow, and 29 piculs Wild Silks. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to America 4,380 bales, to Continent 3,253 bales, to Japan 45 and to London 22 bales. Waste Silk.—Tussah Waste 1 and 2 (60 and 40) is quoted Tls. 25 per picul. Settlements 300 piculs.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/3½; Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale.

	Tls.	Stg.	per picul.	per lb.
Tsatees.—Mountain 4 .....	505	11.01		
" Gold Killing .....	492½	10.91		
" Blue Phoenix .....	490	10.9		
Taysam.—Green Kahing Tungshan .....	452½	9.11		
" White Kahing Gold Lily-Flower 3 .....	432½	8.61		
" 9 x 12 Moss Green Stork 3 .....	412½	8.1		

Yellow Silk.—Meeyang .....	315	7.01
" Ezechong .....	230 a 235	5.3 a 5.4
Hand Filature.—Buffalo Chop A .....	585	12.11½
" " " B .....	585	12.9
" " " C .....	575	12.6
" " " D .....	565	12.3½
" Pegasus Chop No. 1 (Haining) .....	585	12.11½

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	9,775	4,814
Canton .....	10,417	3,164
Yokohama .....	28,530	13,892
	48,745	21,870

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	45,333	39,866
Canton .....	19,842	19,737
Yokohama .....	17,802	12,344
	82,982	72,547

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 4th March.—Some improvement has taken place in the condition of the market and prices are a little higher. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$44.25 to \$45.50. Sales, 400 piculs.

## SILK.

HONGKONG, 4th March.—The market has remained firm at the prices last reported. Quotations are:—  
Shiekloong, No. 1. White...\$7.35 to 7.38 per picul.  
do. " 2. White... 7.00 to 7.04 "  
Shiekloong, No. 1. Brown... 4.92 to 4.95 "  
do. " 2. Brown... 4.81 to 4.85 "  
Swatow, No. 1. White... 7.23 to 7.25 "  
do. " 2. White... 6.95 to 6.98 "  
Swatow, No. 1. Brown... 4.86 to 4.90 "  
do. " 2. Brown... 4.76 to 4.80 "  
Foochow Sugar Candy .....



COTTON PIECE GOODS.		per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. ....	1.75	to	1.85
7lbs. ....	2.00	to	2.07
8.4 lbs. ....	2.50	to	3.20
9 to 10 lbs. ....	3.40	to	4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. ....	2.40	to	2.60
58 to 60 ..	2.75	to	3.45
64 to 66 ..	3.55	to	4.40
Fine .....	4.35	to	7.15
Book-folds. ....	3.80	to	5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.65	to	1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. ....	1.55	to	1.75
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	1.90	to	2.15
6lbs. (32 ..) Mexs. ....	1.70	to	1.85
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.10	to	2.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (30 in.) ....	2.40	to	3.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14lbs. ....	3.75	to	5.15

FANCY COTTONS		per piece	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 7lbs. ....	1.50	to	4.00
Brocades—Dyed .....	3.90	to	5.00
Damasks .....	0.12	to	0.16
Chintzes—Assorted .....	3.08	to	0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in. ....	0.20	to	0.30
Velveteens—18 in. ....	0.16	to	0.18

HANDKERCHIEFS—IMITATION SILK		per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ....	0.45	to	0.90

WOOLLENS		per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. ....	0.55	to	1.35
German .....	1.15	to	1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. ....	1.15	to	5.25
Long Ells—Scarlet .....	6.50	to	9.00
Assorted .....	6.60	to	9.10
Camlets—Assorted .....	12.00	to	32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	11.00	to	20.00
Orleans—Plain .....	7.00	to	8.50

METALS		per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. ....	5.50	to	12.00

IRON—NAIL ROD		per picul	
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	4.10	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	4.20	to	—
Swedish Bar .....	5.50	to	—
Small Round Rod .....	4.80	to	—
Hoop .....	5.50	to	—
Wire 15/25 .....	9.00	to	—
Old Wire Rope .....	1.50	to	3.00
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	8.45	to	—
Australian .....	8.45	to	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. ....	32.00	to	—
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. ....	31.00	to	—
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. ....	31.00	to	—
Composition Nails .....	—	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs .....	30.00	to	—
Tiles .....	29.00	to	—
Tin .....	—	to	—
Tin-Plates .....	6.00	to	—
Steel 1/2 to 1 .....	5.50	to	—

SUNDRIES		per picul	
Quicksilver .....	126.00	to	—
Window Glass .....	4.20	to	—
Kerosene Oil .....	1.87	to	—

SHANGHAI, 26th February.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—The market though firm has ruled very quiet during the interval, the dealers being fully occupied in preparing their shipments for Tientsin by the steamers that leave here to-morrow morning, nineteen having cleared for that Port to-day. Fully 50,000 packages are expected to go, consisting of 20,000 bales American goods, 15,000 bales Yarn and 15,000 packages Manchester makes, being about one fourth more than the quantity usually sent by the first flight. The market is almost bare of stock, however, so it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in disposing of this quantity, large as it seems. It should also be greatly assisted by the satisfactory arrangements the Government have made with regard to the new loan, which will not only help them out of their present financial difficulties but will restore confidence generally and dispel that feeling of uncertainty regarding the future of this country that has been hanging over this trade for so long now. It will of course take some time before any very appreciable benefits are derived from the new markets that will be opened to the trade world by the permission to foreigners to navigate all the internal waterways in this vast country, but it is a step in the right direction and will no doubt be taken full advantage of by our enterprising Steamer Companies.

There is a good enquiry for the heavier classes of Shirtings, which are in unusually short supply, and are also difficult to obtain in Manchester, the market there having gone up 3d. a piece in the last week or ten days, and then only for late shipment. Cotton is higher again, to-day's quotation being 3 1/2 d. Planters must be holding back their Cotton, which is the only way this advance in price can be accounted for. Offers for some fair lines of American goods have been submitted but that market also seems to be firm, and we have not heard of anything going through. The Yarn market is quiet but steady, Indian Spinnings only meeting with a moderate demand this week at unchanged prices. Local Spinnings are firm, and going off well, but most of the Mills are in need of Cotton, which is strongly held by the natives. At a meeting of the shareholders of the Laoou-Kung-Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, to be held on 9th March, the Directors will recommend an increase in the number of Spindles from the 25,000 which are now erected to between 40,000 and 50,000, the building being quite capable of housing that number.

METALS, 28th February.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report).—There has been great activity, spot cargo especially being in demand, while, as will be seen from the list below, the dealers have at last made up their minds to order freely. We hear that much more than the amount we reported has been done, but so far we have been unable to secure particulars. About 500 tons "Goffin" Nailroads are reported to have been done at 127s. 6d., though we quote 129s., to 130s., but as prices have been well maintained we can scarcely credit it.

## EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 4th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand .....	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .....	1/10
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight .....	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	2.31
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.34 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand .....	1.86
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight .....	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	136
Bank, on demand .....	136 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	136
Bank, on demand .....	136 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight .....	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight .....	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand .....	10 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand .....	9 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand .....	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate .....	10.78
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....	55.75

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 4th March.—The market has been active and a good business put through during the week under review, chiefly in Banks and Sugars. Rates generally close steady to strong.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—The demand reported last week continuing and holders being firm, the rate further improved from 182 to 195 per cent. prem. with sales at that and intermediate rates. The market then became erratic and the rate again fell to 191 for cash; on time shares changed hands at 191 to 196 per cent. prem. for March and at 193 to 198 per cent. prem. for April. The market closes steady at 192 per cent. prem. Nationals remain neglected and out of favour at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found buyers at \$68 and \$67 1/2, closing with sellers. Cantons have further declined to \$145 and more shares are obtainable at the rate. Unions have ruled steady, but without business.

An enquiry for Yangtszes has sent the rate up to \$142 without bringing out shares, whilst sales are reported by wire in Shanghai at \$141 exchange 74. North Chinas and Straits continue unchanged, neglected, and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have ruled weak with small sales of the former at \$345 ex dividend and of the latter at \$101.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled much firmer and in fair demand, a fair business having been put through at advancing rates; whether the improvement is due to the bolder policy of fighting the several small native oppositions, at present pursued by the directors, or to short sales for the settlement it is difficult to say, but most things point to the latter as the more probable reason. A good many shares have changed hands during the week at \$26 1/2, \$26 3/4, \$27, \$27 1/2, and \$27 3/4, all for cash, with only a few isolated sales on time for April and June; the market closes firm at \$27 1/2. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated at \$54, but more shares are wanted at the rate and do not seem to be forthcoming, holders demanding \$55. China Manilas on the strength of a rumoured good report and a 15 per cent. dividend have improved to \$81, after small sales at \$79 and \$80. Douglasses have been enquired for at \$58 1/2 to \$59 without leading to business. China Mutuals continue in demand at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further improved their position and sales have been effected at \$173 to \$176 for cash, at \$175 to \$177 for March, and at \$179 and \$178 1/2 for June, the market closing somewhat easier at \$175. It is currently reported and may be taken as a fact that the Consulting Committee will recommend a final dividend of \$10, to place \$140,000 to an equalization dividend fund, to write off some \$75,000, and carry forward about \$13,000, a very remarkable result of the year's working, showing a profit of \$508,000. Luzons have been done at \$41 and close with further small sellers at that rate.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled firmer, but without much business. A few sales have taken place at \$6.60 to \$6.75, the market closing rather quieter at \$6.60. Charbonnages continue to advance and sales have been made at \$150; the market closes with a few shares on offer at \$147 1/2. New Balmorals have changed hands at \$1.60 and \$1.90, Olivers B at \$7, and Jelebus at \$2. Raubs ruled steady to strong during the week at \$24 to \$24 1/2, until the end, when the news of a good crushing—2,050 oz. (about) from 2,200 (about) stone crushed—suddenly jumped them to \$26. During the week shares have changed hands at \$24, \$24 1/2, \$24 3/4, \$25, and \$26, the market closing with sellers at \$26 1/2. Great Easterns have been very quiet and with few if any sales at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue in good demand and with very few shares obtainable the rate has risen to 237 per cent. prem.; a few shares have changed hands at 234 and 235 per cent. prem. for cash and at 237 and 239 for settlements. The market closes firm at 237. Wharves (Kowloon) have found buyers at \$58 and close with sellers at that rate. Wanchais have changed hands at \$40 and are obtainable at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have somewhat improved with small sales at \$74 and \$74 1/2. Hotels are enquired for at \$51, both for cash and at equivalent rates on time, but holders seem disinclined to part except at an advance. West Points and Humphreys continue more or less neglected with sellers at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue very weak and sales of the new issue are reported at \$15 and at \$30 for old. Watsons have changed hands at \$12. Electrics at \$9 1/2. Fenwicks at \$29 ex dividend, and Ropes at \$174 1/2 and \$174. A small sale of Ices has taken place at \$107 and more shares are wanted at the rate. Elvos have found small buyers at par. Hongkong Cottons are on offer at \$15. In other Cotton Mills there is no local business to report and quotations are taken from latest Shanghai advices.



Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
<b>Banks—</b>		[\$335, sal. & sellers
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	192 1/2 prem=
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	21	25.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China	—	—
B. Shares...	28	\$17, sellers
Founders Shares...	21	\$17, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	21	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$4.75
China, Sugar	\$100	\$175, sales & sellers
<b>Cotton Mills—</b>		
Ewo...	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sales
Hongkong	20	15, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 112, sales
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 520
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
<b>Dairy Farm Co. ....</b>	\$6	\$5 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$2 1/2, ex div. sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$30, sales & buyers
Do. New Issue...	\$2 1/2	\$15, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	210	120
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$51, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Rope...	\$50	\$17 1/2, sal. & sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	237 p. ct. prem.=
<b>Insurances—</b>		\$421.25, sal. & b.
Canton...	\$50	\$145, sales & sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$101, ex div. sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$67 1/2, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, ex div. sal. & s.
North-China	25	Tls. 118
Straits	\$20	\$13, sellers
Union	\$25	\$222 1/2, sal. & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$142, sales & buyers
<b>Land and Building—</b>		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$74 1/2, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17 1/2
West Point Building	\$40	\$20
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$41, sales & sellers
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$147 1/2, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$6
Do. Do.	\$2 1/2	\$3, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$2, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.60, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.90, sal. & sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$19, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2 1/2	\$7, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6 1/2, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.90, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$2 1/2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$17 1/2, sellers
<b>Steamship Coys.—</b>		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$31, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord...	210	27 10s. buyers
Do. Preference...	210	25 16s. buyers
Do. Do.	25	22 15s. buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$59 1/2, buyers
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$27 1/2, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	\$54, sales & buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37 1/2	\$40, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 28th February.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—The loan made to the Chinese Government of £16,000,000 by the Deutsch-Asiatische and Hongkong & Shanghai Banks, caused a strong demand for the shares of the latter Bank, which is the chief feature of the week's business. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The news of the Chinese Loan, published on the 23rd, caused an immediate demand for shares, both cash and time, and a large local business was done at 180 to 195 per cent. premium for cash, and 190 for March, and 193 for April, and from Hongkong at 176 to 193 for cash and 185 for March delivery. This latter price, with exchange 74 1/2, is equal to 189 1/2 and 73, which we quote as the closing rate. Marine Insurance.—North China Insurance shares were placed at Tls. 200, and there are more offering on the same terms. Yangtszes were placed at \$144 for the 30th April, and shares are offering. Fire Insurance.—No local business has been reported this week. Shipping.—Business has been confined to Indo-China S. N. shares at Tls. 39.25 cash and Tls. 40.50 for the 31st March. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar shares have been in demand, and business has

been done at Tls. 38 1/2, Tls. 39, and Tls. 40. China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$175, Hongkong wanting shares at \$173 1/2. Luzon shares changed hands at \$40 1/2 and there are buyers at the close. Mining.—Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—Shares were sold to Hongkong at \$6.45. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Boyd & Co. shares are wanted at Tls. 187 1/2. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 168/170, and are wanted. Shanghai Dock shares changed hands at Tls. 75. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 127 cash and Tls. 130 for the 31st May, and are obtainable on the same terms. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are offering at Tls. 95. Industrial.—There are buyers of Major Brothers shares at Tls. 32. International Cotton Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 111 1/2 for the 31st March, and Laou-Kung-mow shares at Tls. 110 cash. There has been a demand for Shanghai Ice shares, which were placed at Tls. 115 and Tls. 120, with buyers at the close. China Flour Mill shares were sold at Tls. 60 and are offering, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 95. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.—The report and accounts for 1897 have been published for the meeting of shareholders called for the 4th March. The net profits amount to Tls. 38,656.23, equal to 19.33 per cent. on the capital, as compared with 23.57 per cent. in 1896 and 36.40 per cent. in 1895. Including a balance of Tls. 1,408.22 from the previous year, and deducting an interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in August, there is a sum of \$28,059.45 to be dealt with. The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 7 per cent. making 13 per cent. for the year, to place Tls. 10,000 to the credit of the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at Tls. 125,425.39, and to carry Tls. 4,059.45 forward. Shares are wanted at Tls. 185, but are held for higher rates. Taku Tug and Lighter shares are offering. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—The report, with the working account for 1896, and a balance sheet to the 31st December last, has been published. The net profits for 1896 amount to Tls. 97,283.75, equal to 51.25 per cent. on the increased capital. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid in September last, absorbing Tls. 20,020, leaving a balance, including Tls. 1,211.20 from the previous year, of Tls. 85,474.95 at the profit and loss account. The Directors propose to pay a final dividend of 25 per cent., Tls. 48,425.00, to place Tls. 36,514.59 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at Tls. 42,000.00, and to carry forward Tls. 535.06. Shares have been placed at Tls. 90 cash, Tls. 93 for March and Tls. 96 for July, at which shares are offering. No business is reported in Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares. Hall and Holtz shares have been placed at \$39 1/2, \$40, and \$41. Loans.—Debentures were sold, plus the accrued interest:—Municipal 6 per cent. at Tls. 102, 5 per cent. at Tls. 93, Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. at Tls. 102, Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. at Tls. 102, Perak Sugar Company's 7 per cent. at Tls. 100, and Shanghai-Langkai Company's 10 per cent. at Tls. 100. Perak Debentures are offering at par.

## TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 4th March.—Business during the past fortnight compares favourably.

Business since last report compares favourably with the previous fortnight, and has been somewhat restricted owing to a scarcity of suitable tonnage.

There is still a good demand for steam tonnage hence to Japan and as high as 36 cents per picul has been paid for Kobe.

Saigon to Hongkong, the rates continue firm, at 25 cents per picul.

Bangkok to Hongkong, small carriers are wanted at 27 1/2 and 32 cents per picul, while large boats command 25 cents outside the bar.

Coal freights have declined, owing to a large amount of tonnage offering, Moji to Hongkong April loading \$1.55 per ton, to Singapore \$2.50 per ton.

The British ship *Genista*, 1,718 tons, proceeds to Manila, and the German barque *Paul Rickmers*, 2,840 tons to a southern rice port both under orders from owners.

There are no disengaged vessels in port.

The following are the settlements:—

*West York*—British barque, 702 tons, Hongkong to San Francisco, gold \$5,000 in full.

*Min*—British steamer, 1,921 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.00 per ton.

*Langbank*—British steamer, 2,966 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

*Hermes*—Norwegian steamer, 849 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

*Glengarry*—British steamer, 1,925 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

*Glencarn*—British steamer, 1,425 tons, Moji to Hongkong \$1.55 per ton.

*Germania*—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per ton.

*Glencarn*—British steamer, 1,912 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per picul.

*Tordenskjold*—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65, Canton \$2.

*Prosper*—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2 per ton.

*Hainan*—German steamer, 741 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

*Whampao*—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

*Glencarn*—British steamer, 1,912 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 36 cents, Yokohama 37 cents per picul.

*Benvenut*—British steamer, 1,461 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

*Stulberg*—German steamer, 782 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

*Sishan*—British steamer, 897 tons, three trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

*Dante*—German steamer, 1,302 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

*Decima*—German steamer, 1,151 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

*Kongbeng*—British steamer, 962 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

*Holstein*—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$6,800 in full.

*Tailex*—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

*Oslo*—Norwegian steamer, 778 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

*Benlarig*—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

*Siam*—British steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

*Quarta*—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

*Venus*—British steamer, 2,322 tons, hence to San Francisco and back, monthly.

*Else*—German steamer, 890 tons, monthly, 5/2 months, \$6,000 per month.

*Taihu*—German steamer, 1,063 tons, monthly, 5 months, £620 per month.

*Astrid*—Norwegian steamer, 957 tons, monthly, 5 months, \$6,250 per month.

*Thilos*—German steamer, 1,341 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,000 per month.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Japan* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Oopack* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Venus* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Ghazee* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Crefeld*, *Bayern* (str.).

For PORTLAND.—*Brademar* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Airlie* (str.), *Tokio Maru* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Tosa Maru* (str.), *Natal* (str.).

For SEATTLE.—*Riojun Maru* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Olympia* (str.).

## SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

February—

ARRIVALS.

25, Atlantic, German bark, from Rajang.

25, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.

25, Else, German str., from Moji.

26, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.

26, Bengo, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.

27, Contest, British bark, from Taiwanfoo.

27, Venus, British str., from Cardiff.

27, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.

27, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.

27, Ingrabau, German str., from Saigon.

27, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Amoy.

27, Melbourne, French str., from Marseilles.

27, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.

27, Foochow, British str., from Canton.

27, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.

27, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.

28, Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.

28, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

28, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.

28, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.

28, Minpie, British str., from New York.

28, Daphne, German str., from Canton.

28, Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.

28, Clam, British str., from Singapore.

March—

1, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.

1, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.

1, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.

1, Pronto, German str., from Tournon.

1, Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.



- 1, Cowrie, British str., from Singapore.
- 1, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 1, Glengarry, British str., from Moji.
- 1, Pathan, British str., from New York.
- 1, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Quarter, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Hunan, British str., from Chinkianr.
- 2, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
- 2, Nestor, British str., from Amoy.
- 2, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Hainan, German str., from Iloilo.
- 3, Immortalite, British cr., from Chusan.
- 3, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 3, Oceana, German str., from Hamburg.
- 3, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Woosung, British str., from Taku Bar.
- 3, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 3, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Hart, British torpedo boat, from Tanghai.
- 3, Tolna, Amr. schr., from Tamsui.
- 3, Thames, British str., from London.
- 3, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 3, Kansu, British str., from Saigon.
- 3, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Boston, Amr. cruiser, from Chemulpo.
- 4, Chusan, German str., from Canton.
- 4, Kashing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 4, Concord, Amr. cruiser, from Chemulpo.
- 4, Hinsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Hertha, German str., from Yokohama.

## February — DEPARTURES.

- 26, Germania, German str., for Saigon.
- 26, Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
- 26, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
- 26, Dardanus, British str., for Amoy.
- 26, Oanfa, British str., for Shanghai.
- 26, Socotra, British str., for Yokohama.
- 26, Sydney, French str., for Europe.
- 26, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
- 27, Amara, British str., for Saigon.
- 27, Ceres, German str., for Yokohama.
- 27, Glenshiel, British str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 27, Lyceemoo, German str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Progress, German str., for Saigon.
- 27, Ad. Nachimoff, Rus. cr., for Singapore.
- 27, Wongkoi, British str., for Hoihow.
- 28, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
- 28, Benlomid, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 28, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
- 28, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
- 28, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 28, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 28, Moeroe, German g-bt., for Matupi.

## March —

- 1, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
- 1, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 1, Foochow, British str., for Takow.
- 1, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Kobe.
- 1, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
- 1, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
- 1, Sachsen, German str., for Europe.
- 2, Fooksang, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 2, Benlarig, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Cowrie, British str., for Yokohama.
- 2, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Ocampo, British str., for Macassar.
- 2, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
- 2, Sumatra, British bark, for London.
- 3, Devawongse, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 3, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Seitoku Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 3, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
- 3, Nestor, British str., for London.
- 3, Pathan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 3, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Archer, British cruiser, for India.
- 4, Taiyick, German str., for Kobe.
- 4, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Else, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Humber, British storeship, for Shanghai.
- 4, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Fausang, British str., for Kobe.
- 4, Hinsang, British str., for Kobe.
- 4, Kansu, British str., for Kobe.
- 4, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 4, Thames, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Santa Cruz, Amr. sch., for Yap.
- 4, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Peru*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. W. Bass, R. G. Johnson, E. D. Gerwing and R. M. Kopp; from Shanghai, Mr. H. Burnett.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Misses A. de Marcaida, Delina Hubosa and Trinidad Tino, Messrs. F. Focken, Francisco Natividad, José Natividad, Capt. Holm and Capt. Nanjelsdorff.

Per *Phra C. C. Kiao*, from Bangkok, Messrs. Breninger and Kessler, and Miss Jacobsen.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, Capt. Douglas.

Per *Nanyang*, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Messrs. Orange, Haesloop and Monree.

Per *Hohenzollern*, from Yokohama, Mrs. Morgan and child, Mr. H. C. Deck, Mrs. Mosle and children, Mr. and Mrs. Davison, Mrs. Putzier and child, Mrs. Woodman, Miss M. S. Woodman, Miss M. Woodman, Master Woodman, Mr. Ch. Lund, Mr. and Mrs. McNeil and children, Messrs. Huhne, Kirchner, Straus, W. Mahon, Hutton, W. Hunt, Wyers, P. Stullberg, and Capt. Crikson.

Per *Melbourne*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. Jayme H. Silva Costa, A. A. Rod. Bello, Bishop de Carvalho, Cannon M. Carvalho, Father dos Santos, Sisters Arnaud, Menegatti, Carolina, Nunes, Silva, Leite, Lopez, Brothers Braganca, Rei, Claudio, da Silva, Pedroza, de Lésus, Taborda, Teixeira, Sarmento, and de Rosario, Father Guinand, and Trennissin; from Colombo, Messrs. J. and W. H. Dixon, Miss Dixon, Miss Janson, and Colonel H. A. Sawyer; from Singapore, Messrs. R. Krauss, G. von Bergen, Bishop C. D. Foss, Messrs. F. G. Price and E. Bidermann, Mr. and Mrs. Goh Liang King, Messrs. Oh Lock Guan, Marcel Le Roux, Cho Sing Ki, Lam Tak Wing, Girolami, and Father P. Connor; from Saigon, Mr. A. Leyra (Spanish Consul).

Per *Sachsen*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. August Ehlers and child, and Mr. J. W. Appleby; for Singapore, Dr. and Mrs. von Tunzelmann and child; for Port Said, Miss Hanslik; for Naples, Capt. Feye, F. G. Navy; for Genoa, Capt. and Miss Muentner; for Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Guinness and children, Mr. W. J. Vins, and Rev. Bramfitt; for Bremen, Mr. Jack Möller, and Mrs. Lindberg.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Australia, Miss Jones, Messrs. J. Marshall, G. Boyer, A. Dewhurst and B. Glew and Capt. Bennet.

Per *Deucalion*, from Sandakan, Mr. Jupp.

Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Mr. and Miss Gittins.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Cecil, Mrs. Ridgeway, Mrs. Murchie, Mrs. Belson, Dr. and Mrs. Hossey, Mr. and Mrs. Macaulay.

Per *Ask*, from Haiphong, &c., Messrs. Paul Balas, Pouller, Monchet, and Brunsching.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. F. W. Hone, Chas. Barber, C. G. Crane; for London, Capt. N. P. Pollock; from Kobe for Port Said, Messrs. Edward N. Osborne and Howard W. Commons; for London, Mr. James Dempster; for Marseilles, Mr. More; from Nagasaki for Hongkong, Mrs. F. B. Stewart, Mrs. M. A. Sugamuma, Messrs. E. A. Measor, Ah Tai, Ah Sing, Sun Cum; for London, Mrs. H. Collbran, Miss C. Collbran.

Per *Hailong*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. H. Kotani and T. Wada.

Per *Oceana*, from Hamburg, &c., for Yokohama, Messrs. Dohrn and Krell.

Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Wade Gardner and 2 children, Messrs. C. Smith, M. A. Tomasoff, J. H. Pye, W. Kenny, and Major Conolly.

Per *Thames*, for Hongkong from London, Mr. H. W. Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Bird, Miss E. Poole, Messrs. H. Thomas and Selby; from Colombo, Mr. A. Harvey, Misses Pelton and Short, Mr. and Mrs. Head; from Penang, Mr. Clayton; from Singapore, Mr. A. J. Battle, Mr. and Mrs. Collinge, Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigues, Mr. Lagenbach, Mr. and Mrs. Brough, Misses Temple, Watt Turner, Harrington, Hardy, Monkman, Mr. and Mrs. Plummer, Messrs. G. Majorini, M. Majorini, McIntyre, Robinson, Shino, Roberts, Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Hards and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, Messrs. W. Twist and G. Gardiner; for Manila from London, Mr. Simpson; for Shanghai from London, Mrs. Williams and child, Mr. E. E. Emmett; from Brindisi, Misses Margery (2), Mr. Hellier; from Ismailia, Mr.

Vanwerk; from Venice, Count and Countess Pomiski; from Colombo, Miss M. Cameron; from Singapore, Mr. H. C. Gulland; for Yokohama from London, Mr. W. Palmer, Mrs. St. John, Miss Smith, Miss Oliver, Dr. and Mrs. D. G. Walters, Mr. A. Snowman, Mr. and Miss Hay, Messrs. J. Hellis, W. Blain, W. Knox, Lord Dormer, Mr. J. Crowle, Mr. F. W. Heald; from Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss T. Thorn-dyke; from Colombo, Mr. M. Visvesvaraya; for Nagasaki from London, Mr. Carndaff.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Sydney*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Mr. l'Abbe L. Mossard; for Singapore, Mr. Raat, Mr. A. Alves; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Cazeaux, Mr. D. J. Whitaker, Mr. R. G. Bolton, Mr. Mocaussin, Earl de Turck de Kersbeck, Earl de Gaspero de Turck de Kersbeck; from Kobe for Saigon, Mr. Gaston Dessoles; for Suez, Mr. J. Israel; for Marseilles, Mr. Batron Wright, Mrs. Bouchard, Mrs. Toreyama; from Yokohama for Marseilles, Mr. J. B. Chaimard; from Shanghai for Singapore, Mr. Goh Ah Ming; for Bombay, Mr. Murai; for Suez, R. P. Massés d'Anrizio; for Port Said, Messrs. W. H. Sturtwant and Phillippos; for Marseilles, Mr. Tillot, Mrs. Appay, Messrs. Dülberg and Tavares.

Per *Melbourne*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. Kore Wittengstein, Lee, Hao, Wo Hang Kwai, and J. W. Lee, Sir Nicholas Hannan and Lady Hannan, Miss Hannan, Messrs. N. J. Hannen, C. L. Pietroni, Tong Sui Che, Low Ching Chun, Leung, Tsing, E. F. Alford, C. S. Taylor, Alesees Haimon, A. J. de Souza, Henri Horwitz, Mr. and Mrs. Stuhlmann; for Nagasaki, Madam Crowley, and Mr. A. Wolden; for Kobe, Mr. Albert Graff; for Yokohama, Mr. Heramoto Onotaro.

Per *Sachsen*, from Yokohama for Genoa, Mrs. Wivelmann and children; for Bremen, Messrs. Huhne, Kirchner and H. Strauss; from Kobe for London, Mr. T. Wyers; from Nagasaki to Port Said, Mr. T. M. Baidack and family; from Japan for Deli, Mrs. Othama; for Genoa, Mr. H. C. Deck, Mrs. A. G. Mosle and children, Mr. J. Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Davieson and child, Mrs. R. E. Woodman and children, Mrs. E. Putzier and child, Dr. F. Sekiba, Dr. K. Azuma, Prof. T. Kurimoto, Prof. E. Yamaguchi, and Mr. H. Onishi; for Southampton, Mr. W. Hunt; for Bremen, Mr. P. Stollberg; for London, Mr. Chas. Lund, Mr. and Mrs. McNeill and children, Mr. J. Shirai; from Shanghai for Singapore, Dr. and Mrs. von Tunzelmann and child; for Naples, Capt. z. See Zeye; for Port Said, Miss Hanslik; for Genoa, Capt. A. B. Minter, and Miss Minter; for Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Guinness and children, Mr. W. J. Vine, and Rev. Th. Bramfitt; for Bremen, Mr. Jack Möller, Mrs. Louise Lindberg; for Bremerhaven, Messrs. Ponath and Bendisili; from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. Sou Chet Wan, Mrs. Chun Si; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Bolles and child, Rev. and Mrs. R. Ott and child, Mr. R. Burgwadt; for Southampton, Capt. and Mrs. Davis and child, Mr. C. F. de Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hagen and child, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Grimble, Mrs. P. Jordan and children, Messrs. W. M. B. Arthur, H. Burnett and Hugh Marr; for Bremen, Mrs. E. H. Melbye and children, Mr. F. Hartlep; for Bremerhaven, Messrs. Anders and Schilke.

Per *Chelydra*, for Singapore, Mr. McMahon.

Per *Nanyang*, for Swatow, Mr. Fred. J. Focken.

Per *Haimun*, for Amoy, Mr. H. S. Wheeler.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr. W. Viniegra,

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G. Poulet Osier, and Mr. T. Kimura; for San

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